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The Rt Hon Damian Green MP
Caxton House
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7th March 2017

Dear Damian

I am writing to you, as the SNP's Disability Spokesperson, regarding the announcement by your Department that changes will be made to the Personal Independence Payment Regulations.

This announcement will have come as a shock to my own constituents in Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock, and to disabled people and their families across the country who rely on Personal Independence Payments – not least because the Government explicitly promised not to introduce any new disability cuts during this session of Parliament. I would be grateful if you could guarantee this pledge will not be broken and think again, so that disabled people, current and future, will not receive a reduction in PIP support.

Not only will these changes exclude vast numbers of disabled people from vital financial assistance, but the move sends a dangerous message to the public that people suffering from mental health conditions are less worthy of support than those with physical disabilities. I am disappointed that no explanation has been offered as to why sufferers of mental health conditions, according to your department, do not require the same levels of support as others. I would be grateful if you could fully outline your rationale for this. Furthermore, as disability organisations and politicians across the spectrum – even including Conservative MPs – voice their disgust at this cruel policy, will you reconsider the amendment to the Social Security (Personal Independence Payment) (Amendment) Regulations 2017?

You will be aware that MP's across different parties, including myself and my SNP colleagues, have prayed to annul these changes by objecting to the amendment to the above cited regulations. Early Day Motion 985 carries these objections. I urge you to consider the weight of opposition to these regulations and the devastating impact this change will have on the lives of many of my own constituents and people across the country, and request that the matter be urgently brought before Parliament for debate.

I would be grateful if you could give this important matter its due consideration and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these concerns, at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Corri Wilson MP
SNP Disability Spokesperson