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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
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Sent electronically

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Dear Meg

**Public Accounts Committee Oral Evidence on 12 December 2022
The Restart Scheme for Long-Term Unemployed People
Transcript Correction**

On review of the transcript of the above oral evidence session, there is one part of my statement in the transcript that requires correction to a matter of fact.

You asked a question about the current status on the department's work in correcting the underpayment of State Pension (from Q79). You asked what information has been made available for those who may have been underpaid?

In my response (Q81) I misstated the underlined part of my statement:

...If you are someone who is affected by the three categories that we are talking about here—over-80s; someone whose spouse has died who should have received the benefit of their national insurance record; and someone who has retired and then their spouse has retired after them, and the spouse retired before 17 March 2008—then you would be covered by the category BL thing and then you also do not need to make a claim. It will come to you. If you are someone who is divorced and worried about that, or someone whose spouse reached retirement age after 17 March 2008, you would not be covered by this case, so you would need to come to us and tell us about that.

Correction

I apologise that my reference to “before” and “after” 17 March 2008 was the wrong way round. I have stated it correctly in previous evidence sessions with the Committee, so I am sorry for my mistake on this occasion. For clarity, from 17 March 2008, the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Amendment Regulations 2008 amended the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1987. This change meant that a woman whose husband became entitled to his State Pension on or after this date, no longer needed to make a separate claim to receive the Category BL “top up.” The increase using her husband's contributions would be automatic.

Those women whose husbands became entitled to their State Pension after them, and before 17 March 2008, are still required to make a separate claim to get any Category BL "top up."

Your sincerely
Peter Schofield

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Permanent Secretary