



Public Accounts Committee

**Mr Bob Blackman MP and Mr Fabian
Hamilton MP**
**Co-Chairs of the All-Party
Parliamentary Group for Justice for
Equitable Life Policyholders**
Sent by email:
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Equitable Life

Dear Bob and Fabian,

Thank you for your letter of 28 February on behalf of the Equitable Life Policyholders All-Party Parliamentary Group, replying to mine of 29 November 2022.

While we understand there is much concern and frustration from policyholders about what took place in relation to the Equitable Life scandal, I am afraid there is no more the Committee of Public Accounts (PAC) can do.

As stated in my previous letter, the PAC agreed to hold an inquiry into the situation last year and took evidence from the then Permanent Secretary at HM Treasury. This inquiry discovered that the Treasury did not hold records related to the appeals process as they were not the authority responsible for managing appeals, and that the body which did, National Savings and Investments, had since deleted case data under data protection rules.

Given the questions this raised about document retention actions and policies within government, I wrote to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) to see whether this could feed into any existing work they were doing. The Chair responded that PACAC would likely return to the topic of data management in the future particularly in the context of its on-going work of the Cabinet Office and its cross-Government coordination role in several areas, including data.

With the data destroyed and the National Audit Office having no plans to conduct any further work, PAC has no plans to revisit the issue. I would therefore advise you refer your concerns to PACAC directly as the Committee best placed to consider these wider points moving forward.

Yours Sincerely

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts