Dear Debbie,

On 19th December 2018 you called a backbench committee debate on the cumulative impact of changes to the social security system on sick and disabled people and their families and carers, which I responded to.

It has only just been brought to my attention that I was provided inaccurate briefing about the "Households below average income" publication from which I quoted. In the debate I said:

"Looking at all four measures of low-income poverty – before and after housing costs, and on a relative and on an absolute basis – poverty for people in families with a disabled person has improved since 2010 on three of the four measures, and there was no change in the fourth."

However the fourth measure (relative low income after housing costs) actually increased by 1 per cent.

I sincerely apologise for the mistake. I will be placing a copy of this letter in the House Library, and making a Ministerial correction to Hansard. I will also be providing a copy of this letter to Mr Speaker.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Newton MP
Minister for Disabled People, Health & Work