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Madeleine Moon MP

30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Madeleine,

I write with regards to a number of PQs you have previously asked the Secretary of State on the issue of the Special Rules for Terminal Illness (SRTI) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The method used to interpret the underlying data for breakdowns of normal rules and special rules cases by Departmental analysts has changed. This means that the figures provided by the former Minister for Disabled People on 1<sup>st</sup> February to PQs 209777 and 209781 and by me on 18<sup>th</sup> March to PQs 230074, 230075, 230076, 230077, 230078, 230079 and 230080 have also changed.

Whilst a Ministerial correction is not necessary, it is appropriate to inform you of the detail of these changes.

**PQ209777 –**

The total number of claimants who died after registering, but prior to the Department making a decision on their claim has increased from 17,070 to 17,080. Of these, 12,680 were under normal rules and 4,400 were under SRTI (previously 11,790 and 5,290 respectively).

Additionally, claims made under SRTI are currently being cleared in 5 working days as at the end of January 2019 as stated in the March publication of the PIP statistics. When the PQs were originally answered data had only been released up to the end of October 2018 at which point claims made under SRTI were being cleared in rather than 6 working days.

**PQ209781 –**

The total number of claims to PIP registered under SRTI by claimants who had previously been disallowed at initial decision under normal rules has increased from 5,670 to 6,590. This means that 18% of claims were made within 3 months of the original disallowance, 34% within 6 months, 57% within a year and 43% over a year, instead of the 20%, 36%, 58% and 42% previously stated respectively.

**PQ230074 –**

The total number of normal rules claimants who died after registering but before the Department made a decision on their claim has increased from 11,790 to 12,680. Some of the numbers of claimants by main disabling condition have also changed:

<u>Disability Category</u>	<u>Number of Claimants</u>
Cardiovascular disease	280 (from 260)
Diseases of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract	290 (250)
Genitourinary disease	110 (100)
Infectious disease	20 (10)
Malignant disease	1500 (630)
Neurological disease	360 (340)
Psychiatric disorders	680 (690)
Respiratory disease	430 (410)
Unknown or missing	8,510 (8,590)

**PQ230075 –**

Nearly 109,000 applications to PIP were made under SRTI between April 2013 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. 4,400 of these claimants died after registering but prior to the Department making a decision on their claim, down from the previously stated 5,290.

Additionally, claims made under SRTI are being cleared in 5 working days, rather than the 6 working days previously stated.

**PQ230076 and PQ230077 (answers linked) –**

73,870 claimants died within 6 months of their claim being registered instead of the previously stated 73,800. Of these, 8,010 had their claim disallowed prior to any Mandatory Reconsideration or Appeal action,

up from 7,990. Some of the numbers of claimants by main disabling has changed:

<u>Disability Category</u>	<u>Normal Rules</u>	<u>Special Rules for the Terminally Ill</u>	<u>Total</u>
Autoimmune disease (connective tissue disorders)	10 (from 20)	#	10 (20)
Cardiovascular disease	140 (120)	# (10)	140 (120)
Diseases of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract	80 (110)	10 (20)	100 (140)
Endocrine disease	50 (60)	#	50 (60)
Genitourinary disease	30 (40)	# (10)	30 (40)
Malignant disease	220 (200)	380 (790)	600 (980)
Musculoskeletal disease (general)	120 (130)	#	120 (130)
Musculoskeletal disease (regional)	120 (130)	#	120 (130)
Neurological disease	140 (170)	# (10)	140 (180)
Psychiatric disorders	460 (520)	#	470 (520)
Respiratory disease	130 (160)	10	130 (160)
Unknown or missing	5,730 (5,190)	320 (210)	6,060 (5,400)
Total	7,270 (6,930)	740 (1,060)	8,010 (7,990)

A point needs to be made that “It is possible for a PIP claim made under SRTI to be rejected as a special rules case by the Assessment Provider for not satisfying the terminally ill definition. When this occurs the claim is subsequently referred back to the Department for Work and Pensions and the claim process will proceed under normal rules. A claim can be disallowed for the claimant failing to return the PIP2 form or attend an assessment under the normal rules process, even though the claimant originally registered under special rules.”

This affects Table 1B in PQs 230076 and 230077. Changes are as follows:

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Normal Rules at point of registration</u>	<u>Special Rules for the Terminally Ill at point of registration</u>	<u>Total</u>
Disallowed pre-referral to the AP: other reason, e.g. lay rules	1,010 (from 960)	520 (570)	1,530
Disallowed pre-referral to the AP: due to non-return of Part 2 within the time limit	4,130 (3,910)	100 (310)	4,230 (4,220)
Disallowed post-referral to the AP: Failed Assessment	1,370 (1,320)	100 (140)	1,470 (1,460)
Disallowed post-referral to the AP: Failed to Attend	760 (750)	20 (30)	780
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,270 (6,930)</b>	<b>740 (1,060)</b>	<b>8,010 (7,990)</b>

**PQ230078 and PQ230079** (answers linked) –

Applying under normal rules, 3,560 claimants died within three months of their initial application being disallowed, down from the previously stated 3,590. Some of the numbers of claimants by main disabling condition have also changed:

<u>Disability category</u>	<u>Number of claimants with this disability</u>
Autoimmune disease (connective tissue disorders)	20 (from 10)
Cardiovascular disease	110 (90)
Diseases of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract	90 (70)
Malignant disease	340 (120)
Musculoskeletal disease (regional)	120 (110)
Neurological disease	150 (120)
Psychiatric disorders	440 (400)
Respiratory disease	120 (110)
Unknown or missing	1,930 (2,310)

**PQ230080 –**

6,590 PIP claims were registered under SRTI by claimants who had previously been disallowed at initial decision under normal rules, up from the previously stated 5,630.

3,650 (56%) had been disallowed at assessment, 530 (8%) had been disallowed for failing to attend assessment, 2,200 (33%) had been disallowed for failing to return a PIP2 form and 220 (3%) has been disallowed for other reasons prior to an assessment taking place, up from 3,160, 310 (6%), 2,000 (36%) and 160 respectively.

Going forward, answers to future PQs will contain figures obtained using the new method and where necessary, will make a point of reference to the figures previously published.

I will ensure that a copy of this letter is placed in to the House Library in due course.

Kind regards,



**Justin Tomlinson MP**  
Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work