The Select Committee has asked for clarification about the evaluation of Paternity Leave alongside Shared Parental Leave.

The evaluation of Shared Parental Leave and Pay will look at the take up of leave and pay by fathers and partners, barriers to take-up, and how Shared Parental Leave and Pay are being used in practice.

The Maternity and Paternity Rights Survey (MPRS) has been conducted every few years since the late 1970s and we will conduct the next edition during 2018. MPRS interviews parents with young children to monitor the take up of maternity and paternity benefits.

Work is underway to develop an employer survey, with the intention of running it later this year.

The data collected as part of both these surveys will inform the evaluation of the Shared Parental Leave and Pay policy. This evaluation will not aim to assess whether paternity leave policy is meeting its objectives, but it will contribute to policy development in this area – and so will the availability of survey data on take-up of paternity leave and pay.

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