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The Baroness Sherlock,
By email

26th July 2022

Dear Baroness Sherlock

Universal Credit (Removal of Two-Child Limit) Bill Second Reading

During the recent debate on the Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill on the 8th July, you asked how the Government decided to provide support for a maximum of two children during the passage of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. According to the Office of National Statistics, the average number of children in families in the UK in 2012 was 1.7 therefore the Government thought it was fair and proportionate to limit support through tax credits and Universal Credit to two children.

I would also like to correct something that I said during the debate. I said that the research on impacts between fertility and child benefits from the Nuffield Foundation larger families consortium of researchers was published in July 2022 when in fact it was published in April 2022.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House Library.

With best wishes,

BARONESS STEDMAN-SCOTT
MINISTER FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (LORDS)