



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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The Rt Hon. the Lord Laming CBE
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10 April 2025

Dear Lord Laming,

Thank you for your contribution at the recent repeat of the Urgent Question on the impact of changes to Personal Independence Payment on recipients of Carer's Allowance. I agree wholeheartedly that we all owe a significant debt of gratitude to carers, who do some of the most important jobs in society, unpaid.

I was pleased, in response to your request for assurance that nothing will be done to undermine the value we attach to carers, to point to actions the Government has already taken to improve the support that is available to them.

In my remarks, I said that the Government was investing in carers to "allow them, for the first time ever...to earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the national minimum wage before losing any of their benefit". I would like to clarify that there have been occasions in the past where the earnings limit before which a carer would lose their Carer's Allowance has exceeded the equivalent of 16 hours of work at the national minimum/living wage. Instead, for the first time ever the Government has introduced a clear, ongoing policy of calculating the earnings limit based on a formula of 16 times the national living wage, giving more certainty and financial security to our unpaid carers.

I do hope this clarification is helpful. For the interest of all Noble Lords, a copy of this letter will be deposited in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Sherlock OBE

Minister of State in the Department for Work and Pensions