



## GORDON MARSDEN MP

*Labour Member of Parliament for Blackpool South*

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Crystal Akass (People Services Director)  
People and Capability Group  
Level 3, Caxton House  
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London SW1H 9NA

Our Ref: GM15514

16 July 2019

Dear Crystal Akass

**RE: DWP staffing issues and appeal decision.**

Following my letter to you 17th June 2019 and your reply of the 19th June 2019 I write further after the appeal decision.

I am a very disappointed that I have had no further communication from you directly after the appeals on the 21st June 2019.

I would ask that the points raised in my letter to you and the email attached at that time be properly answered.

I would also ask why 200 PIP Case Managers it seems have been employed on a permanent basis and yet no consideration was given to Blackpool Staff. It is also my understanding that staff are being offered employment after 26th July 2019 if they are on the waiting list despite the appeal staff being told in January that permanent staff were able to manage service delivery. Could you please explain why this is still occurring?

It has come to my attention that there are still numerous advertisements for Executive Officer staffing appearing across the country including Blackpool. If this is the case why has the DWP not offered to staff that could be moved to fixed contract the ability to apply, DWP policy does not rule this out.

I would ask given the situation with PIP and the movement from DLA and new claims how a temporary increase in work criteria could be used.

It would be useful to know the levels from January 2018 up until the present date and what the projected levels may be over the next twelve months.

I would suggest the whole policy and procedure seems to be a very costly one as one department works autonomously to another and no one policy works across the departments or indeed the service. A change in policy would of course could give a more flexible approach to permanent contracts being offered giving more security to staff and less anxiety and stress and of course a more stable service.

I hope I will now have a satisfactory response to these further questions.

If I do not I shall have no hesitation in raising this matter publicly in parliament.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon Marsden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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