Thank you for allowing me to give evidence to the Health and Sport Committee on 22 November. I hope I was able to provide some clarity about the Government’s policy direction, as contained in the Welfare Reform Bill. During the hearing, I committed to writing on a number of further issues.

**Breakdown of DLA Recipients in Scotland**
I was asked by Fiona McLeod to provide details on how many of the 350,000 DLA recipients in Scotland were in receipt of the lower rate of the mobility component and the lower rate of the care component.

The latest data we have shows that 90,000 people are receiving the lowest rate of the care component in Scotland, of whom 70,000 are aged 16-64. 110,000 people were receiving the lower rate of the mobility component, of whom 90,000 are aged 16-64. This data was compiled in May 2011.

**Impact of CMEC Reform on Mediation Services**
Bob Doris asked whether we had assessed the impact of CMEC Reform on mediation services and, if so, whether extra funding would be made available for such services. The Department is currently working to improve the co-ordination of support services to separating and separated families, including through an Expert Steering group that is looking to identify the most effective forms of support for different families and how best to make the existing support more easily available to parents – mediation is just one method of helping families to collaborate. We are engaging with officials from the Scottish Government to ensure our proposals are joined up, and we will announce the advice from the steering group in due course. The funding of such services will be considered in light of the advice we receive, although it is worth noting that other Government Departments, most notably the Department for Education, do fund some aspects of family support services and significant amounts are also paid for directly by the families using the service.
Kinship Care
I agreed that I would keep the Committee updated about the discussions between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Scottish Government about the development of kinship care policy. At this time, I do not have any further updates I can provide the Committee with but as soon as there have been any substantive developments in this area I will write with further details.

Please let me know if you require any further clarification.

Neil Couling
Director, Working Age Benefits