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Councillor Derek Louden
Strategic Chair
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The Highland Council
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15 February 2024

Dear Councillor Louden,

Thank you for your letter of 25 January to the Secretary of State about Housing Benefit and War Pensions disregard. I am replying as the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to write in raising this issue. I write to you with the latest update and I hope you will find the following comments to be helpful.

I can advise that anecdotal evidence available to the Department for Work and Pensions suggests that very few local authorities are not operating a discretionary disregard in relation to Housing Benefit claims. Nevertheless, the extent to which they do so, must consider available resources and local priorities. Accordingly, we believe that local authorities remain best placed to make the final decision on whether or not to disregard these types of income and have no plans to change these arrangements.

Mims Davies MP
Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work