



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ministerial
Correspondence
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA

0207 340 4000

www.dwp.gov.uk

ministers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Minister for Housing and Regeneration
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

23 July 2014

Dear Carl,

Discretionary Housing Payments

Thank you for your letter of 15 July regarding the family in Cardiff and their application for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). Although I am sorry to hear about the unfortunate story of this man, and am surprised at the myopic attitude of his landlord, there is little I can add to the extensive previous correspondence we have had on the issue.

As you know we have provided £50 million in DHP funding since the introduction of the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy specifically to help disabled people living in specially adapted accommodation remain in their homes.

Furthermore we make it clear in guidance that when deciding upon DHP applications Local Authorities should consider disregarding income from disability related benefits as they are intended to be used to help pay for the extra costs of disability. As part of the application process care should be taken to ascertain whether such money is committed to other liabilities for which it was intended, such as the provision of care, seeking evidence regarding on how expenditure is used.

Local Authorities have discretion over how they manage their schemes – that is what localism means - but the Department provides steers on the priority of certain cases, such as disabled people in specially adapted accommodation, as well as examples of good practice in its guidance manual.

I am copying this letter to Gwenda Thomas AC/MA, Deputy Minister for Social Services, Jeff Cuthbert AC/MA, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Lesley Griffiths AC/MA, Minister for Local Government and Government Business, Vaughan Gething AC/MA, Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty and the Rt Hon. David Jones MP, Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

David

Lord Freud

Minister for Welfare Reform