



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000
Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264
Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1577
Date 23 December 2022

EQUITABLE LIFE PAYMENT SCHEME

Thank you for your request of 1 December 2022 in relation to the C&AG Report of 24 April 2013: Administering the equitable Life Payment Scheme. You have asked for us to handle your request in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The specific information you requested states:

"Have the Comptroller or Auditor General ever considered this Ongoing Deception of Parliament or does Gareth Davies have any views on the matter?"

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public authorities to provide the information which they hold at the time of a request where it is applicable, and lawful and is not exempt. It does require public authorities to create information or to respond to questions about the interpretation of the law or guidance or provide views or opinions on any subject matter. However, having searched our audit records, we can confirm that hold some information within the scope of your request. We thought the following information might be helpful.

Please see the link below which provides a Memorandum produced to support the Committee of Public Accounts' inquiry on Equitable Life's Payment Scheme which occurred on the 22 April 2021. It contains the outline of events with further links and references from the NAO's prior consideration of this matter and to HM Treasury's recent representations to us on the matter.

[Memorandum for the Committee of Public Accounts: Equitable Life Payment Scheme - National Audit Office \(NAO\) briefing](#) In addition, please see below the transcript for the Public Accounts Committee session held and the video link for the actual session. <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2082/default/>

[Parliamentlive.tv - Public Accounts Committee](#) (See index on the right for the relevant timestamp) Annex A sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with how we have handled your request for information under the FOIA. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP
020 7798 7000 www.nao.org.uk



Cert No. 8835

ISO 14001

Annex A

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF