

Alison Threwliss MP  
Glasgow Central Constituency Office  
33 London Rd  
Glasgow  
G1 5NW

160 Falcon Road  
London SW11 2LN  
**Telephone** 020 7801 2614  
**Fax** 020 7924 6377

**Mark Serwotka**  
General Secretary

29 July 2016

Dear Alison

Re: Tax Credits

Thank you for your letter of 22 February. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

PCS is very concerned about the Government's proposal to introduce a rape clause for tax credits and Universal Credit claimants who have more than 3 children. PCS is firmly opposed to all of the cuts to tax credits and Universal Credit, including the two child policy, that the government is seeking to implement.

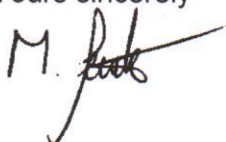
Many PCS members rely on these benefits to make ends meet and so we expect that some of our members will themselves be caught up by the two child policy.

On the specific issue you raise regarding the rape clause, PCS is very concerned about how this may operate both for claimants and our members who would have to implement this policy. We do not think anyone should have to conduct such an interview and we would want the policy to be abandoned.

PCS has raised concerns with DWP management over this issue and made clear that specialist training would be required for anyone conducting such an interview, in the same way that specialist training was provided for our members in the Child Support Agency who had to conduct, not dissimilarly sensitive, interviews to determine what was known as 'good cause'.

DWP acknowledges that this is a serious issue and recognised the legitimacy of PCS' concerns. However as yet DWP has not put forward any proposals to PCS to define what the protections promised would look like. We are continuing to pursue this matter with DWP.

Yours sincerely



**MARK SERWOTKA**  
General Secretary

