



An independent association of
Equitable Life Members & Policy-Holders
funded by subscription

Equitable Members Action Group Ltd

Address for correspondence:

42 Bartholomew Villas, Kentish Town, London NW5 2LL

Telephone: 020 7267 5938 www.emag.org.uk

Right Hon Alistair Darling MP,
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road,
London SW1A 2HQ

9th June, 2008

Dear Chancellor,

The Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Equitable Life

Last week the Parliamentary Ombudsman (PO), Ann Abraham, confirmed that she will lay her second report into Equitable Life before Parliament during the week commencing 14 July. The report, four years in the making, will be of great importance to those like our supporters who seek compensation from government for the gross regulatory failure which EMAG maintains caused the losses that they personally suffered in the near-failure of Equitable seven years ago and ever since.

Could you please tell us if HMG intends: -

- to respond to the report on its day of publication by means of a statement made in the Commons and, if so, will the statement be written or oral?

- to hold a full debate on it in the Commons, before or after the summer recess?

Will both the statement and any subsequent debate also address the EQUI European Parliament's "Report on the Crisis of the Equitable Life Assurance Society"?

If not, how and when does HMG intend to respond to EQUI, given that most of its 46 detailed recommendations on EU regulation fell outwith the remit of the PO? Thirteen months is far too long to have to wait for a response from HMG to this report which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of MEPs (609 to 11), representing all major parties and all 27 member states, in the Plenary session on 19th June 2007.

When the President of the EU Parliament wrote to Gordon Brown last December pressing for HMG's response to the report you replied weeks later to say that HMG would continue to wait for the PO's report. The Parliament and EMAG, as the progenitors of the Inquiry, expect HMG to honour its obligations and provide a reasoned and detailed response to EQUI.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Braithwaite

General Secretary of EMAG Ltd
(Equitable Members' Action Group)
cc Kitty Ussher MP