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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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Unnecessary panic is being generated amongst pensioners by wildly inaccurate reports of the plans for implementation of the assets test.

At this stage no final advice or forms have been approved.

The Government has consulted pensioner organisations to ensure the final forms cause as little alarm as possible.

The Government's approach has been thoroughly endorsed by most responsible pensioner organisations.

They want their members to realize that very few pensioners will be affected by the test.

The final forms will be simple and will require only a very small percentage of pensioners to respond.

While the Government has wide support for the principle of the assets test, it has been especially sensitive in preparing these forms. Within two weeks the final forms will be released publicly.