



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

Ministerial  
Correspondence **0207 340 4000**  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street **www.gov.uk**  
LONDON  
SW1H 9DA  
**ministers@dwp.gov.uk**

Your ref: ZA11670

Catherine West MP  
catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk

Our ref: MC2021/69834

14 October 2021

Dear Catherine,

As you may know, your letter of 24 August to the Prime Minister on behalf of a number of your constituents about Universal Credit has been passed to this Department. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for this policy area and apologise for the delay.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Government's priority has been to protect lives and people's livelihoods. This includes continually supporting individuals and businesses. Universal Credit has provided a vital safety net for six million people during the pandemic, and we announced the temporary uplift as part of a COVID support package worth a total of £407 billion in 2020/21 and 2021/22. As part of the Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced that the temporary £20 a week increase in Universal Credit was to be extended for a further six months, until October. Eligible Working Tax Credit claimants received an equivalent one-off payment of £500.

The Government has always been clear that the £20 increase was a temporary measure to support households affected by the economic shock of Covid-19. As a result, Universal Credit Claimants Assessment Periods that ended on or after 6 October 2021 have not included the additional £20 per week.

There have been significant positive developments in the public health situation since the uplift was first introduced with the success of the vaccine roll-out. Now the economy is reopening and as we continue to progress with our recovery, our focus is on helping people to prepare for, get into and progress in work.

We recognise that some families may still require extra support for a variety of reasons, which is why we have introduced a £421 million Household Support Fund to help vulnerable people in England over the coming months with essential household costs. The Barnett formula will apply in the usual way, with the devolved administrations receiving £79 million on top of the £421 million for England, for a total of £500 million.

I hope your constituents will find this reply helpful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Rutley', with a horizontal line underneath.

**David Rutley MP**

**Minister for Welfare Delivery**