



Work and Pensions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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From the Chair

Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey
Secretary of State
Department for Work and Pensions

27 October 2020

Dear Thérèse,

Minimum Income Floor in Universal Credit

I am writing to ask for an update on the Government's plans for the Minimum Income Floor (MIF) in Universal Credit. As the law currently stands, the suspension of the MIF is due to end on 12 November.

When you gave evidence to the Committee on 30 September, we asked whether this suspension would be extended. You told us then that this was "very actively and carefully being considered".

1. Are you now in a position to let us know the outcome of that consideration? If not, when do you expect to announce your decision?

I also note that the Government's guidance for claimants has changed since our evidence session. Before that session, we noted that the "Understanding Universal Credit" webpages advised claimants that:

"The Minimum Income Floor has been temporarily relaxed during the coronavirus outbreak. This change applies to all Universal Credit claimants and will last for the duration of the outbreak."

The same section now reads:

"The Minimum Income Floor has been temporarily relaxed during the coronavirus outbreak. This change applies to all Universal Credit claimants. You will be informed before the Minimum Income Floor is reinstated for you."

2. **Should we understand from this that it is no longer the Government's policy that the Minimum Income Floor will be suspended for the duration of the outbreak? If so, when did you make that decision, and on what grounds?**
3. **Please could you share with the Committee a copy of any guidance given to Work Coaches to support them in advising Universal Credit claimants who may be subject to the Minimum Income Floor when it is reinstated?**

Given how rapidly the end of the suspension is approaching, I would be grateful for a response as a matter of urgency, and no later than **5pm on Tuesday 3 November**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Timms". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee