



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Guy Opperman MP
Minister for Employment
Department for Work and
Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London SW1H 9DA

The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Select
Committee

28th March 2023

Dear Sir Stephen,

Move to Universal Credit

I am writing to update you on the managed migration of legacy benefit claimants to Universal Credit.

Discovery Phase

Last May, we commenced our Discovery phase. Initially we issued 500 migration notices to households in Bolton and Medway. This notification letter sets out the requirement to make a claim to Universal Credit, to continue to receive financial support from the Government. It advises households they have a minimum of three months to make their claim and provides details of the support available.

Following the initial 500 notifications, we expanded the Discovery phase to Truro and Falmouth in July 2022, Harrow in August 2022, Northumberland in September 2022 and more recently all postcodes in Cornwall during February 2023.

Initial Findings

In January 2023, the Department published '[Completing the move to Universal Credit: Learning from the Discovery Phase](#)', which set out our initial learnings from the Discovery phase. It also set out the Department's plans for Move to Universal Credit in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Next Steps

From the beginning of April 2023, we will begin to increase the number of legacy benefit claimants we move to Universal Credit. We will expand into additional areas, bringing in the whole of Great Britain during 2023/24. Social security is a transferred matter in Northern Ireland.

We are continuing with a controlled approach, focusing on tax credit only cases during 2023/24, incrementally increasing the number of households notified of the need to make a claim to Universal Credit to continue to receive financial support.

In 2024/25, we will notify the remaining applicable households of the need to move to Universal Credit. This includes all residual tax credits cases (including those on both Employment Support Allowance and tax credits), all cases on Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based) and all Housing Benefit cases (including combinations of these benefits).

At the point of moving over to Universal Credit (for those claimants moving through the managed migration process), all legacy benefit claimants will be assessed for transitional protection and paid where appropriate. The aim of this temporary payment is to maintain benefit entitlement at the point of transition so that claimants will have time to adjust to the new benefit system.

In line with the 2022 Autumn statement, the Government is delaying the managed migration of claimants on income-related Employment Support Allowance (except for those receiving Child Tax Credit) to Universal Credit. Employment Support Allowance claimants are still however able to make a claim for Universal Credit if they believe that they will be better off.

The Department has put in place robust governance arrangements to assess our readiness to scale the migration of tax credit claimants to ensure it is safe and secure to proceed. We are satisfied that the right processes, resources, communications, service stability, security and other key factors are in place to begin increasing the volume of moves.

I will continue to provide the Committee with updates on our progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Opperman', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Guy Opperman MP
Minister for Employment