



Work and Pensions Committee

13 April 2023

Rt Hon Mel Stride MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
(By e-mail only)

Dear Mel,

Universal Credit and childcare costs: Government Response

Thank you for the [Government Response](#) to our *Universal Credit and childcare costs* [Report](#).

The Committee welcomes that the Government has accepted some of the Report's key recommendations, particularly around the childcare support limit and paying costs upfront. However, there are a number of points on which we would be grateful if further details could be provided:

1. In response to our request for the department to commission research on "why take-up [of UC childcare support] is not higher and how it could be improved", you referred to 2021 research commissioned by DWP. Does the department expect to publish this research once it has been quality assured?
 - a. If not, why not; and
 - b. if so, when do you hope the research to be published;
2. What other lessons has the Government learned from its internal work looking at international childcare comparisons? When was this work undertaken?
3. Can you provide a date by which the Government plans to have amended the 2013 FSF Regulations; and
4. Can you please provide the number, by district, of childcare Champions and childcare Subject Matter Experts.

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Thursday 11 May. As is usual practice with the Committee's correspondence, I will be publishing this letter and your response on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely,

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