



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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Dr. Stephen Brien
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Caxton House
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1st February 2022

Dear Stephen,

UNIVERSAL CREDIT (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) REGULATIONS 2022

Thank you for your letter dated 13 January 2022 and for your time to discuss the issues raised further on 25 January.

I welcome the Committee confirming they are content with the majority of the proposed amendments to the named regulations after undertaking their statutory scrutiny. We have a shared ambition to see the rollout of Universal Credit delivered safely and on time, by 2024, and we are both keen to avoid delays to this process.

I recognise the concerns raised by Committee members and I want to assure the Committee that the Secretary of State and I are mindful of the scale and the significance of the task ahead of us. We are especially mindful of the vulnerability of some of our claimants.

You raised the possibility of separating out the regulations for the Committee to consider specific regulations in slower time. We have explored this again. However, the complexity associated with tabling two sets of amendments and the risk this presents of delaying the programme lead us to presenting these regulations as a single package.

To provide the Committee with an appropriate and proportionate opportunity to provide advice to Ministers as we proceed with the migration to UC, I would be willing to meet you on a quarterly basis to update the Committee on progress and share key findings up to the end of discovery phase. The offer of these meetings reflects the exceptional scope and scale of this project and, as we both realise, are not standard procedure for the Department and its engagement with the Committee. As such, the Secretary of State and I would not anticipate that this approach is employed elsewhere in the Department.

I hope this offer reflects the spirit of our meeting and look forward to your response which I hope will confirm that the Committee will not need to refer these regulations. A copy of this letter goes to the Secretary of State, Baroness Stedman-Scott, Neil Couling and Jonathan Mills.

DAVID RUTLEY MP
MINISTER FOR WELFARE DELIVERY