

David Rutley MP
Minister for Welfare Delivery
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

11 February 2022

Dear Minister,

The Universal Credit (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2022

Thank you for your letter of 1 February, responding to issues raised in my original correspondence of 13 January and our subsequent discussion with the Secretary of State and Lady Stedman-Scott on 25 January.

The Committee recognises that the Department is keen to make early progress with the implementation of these proposals to provide certainty for those individuals who may be affected by the move to Universal Credit. In order to expedite matters, I convened an extraordinary meeting of Committee members, which we held on 9 February, to further consider these regulations in the light of your response – with an emphasis on how best to ensure appropriate scrutiny and public confidence for an agile process in light of the proposed regulation 9.

The Committee welcomes your offer of regular quarterly meetings to report on progress and share findings until the end of the discovery phase. However, there was a clear consensus among Committee members that this, in isolation, would not go far enough to mitigate against the risks highlighted in my original letter and the Committee's earlier report on *The Universal Credit (Managed Migration) Regulations 2018*. Nor would it serve to strengthen public confidence in the system.

I am therefore writing to confirm that, after further careful consideration of the proposals, the Committee has decided to take the above regulations on formal reference in accordance with sections 172(1) and 174(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

I can provide assurance that we do not wish to unduly delay the process. We will not be undertaking a large-scale public consultation on this occasion but intend to seek the advice of a small number of experts, including those with significant experience or expertise of agile processes and their governance. We will arrange these conversations as early as possible and, subject to the usual modalities, anticipate being in a position to submit our report to the Secretary of State within a few weeks.

We will ensure that DWP is informed of our plans and detailed timetable for, and of developments throughout, the formal reference process. I would also be very happy to discuss further with you at any stage of the process if that would be helpful.

A copy of this letter goes to the Secretary of State, Lady Stedman-Scott, Neil Couling and Jonathan Mills.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Brien'.

Stephen Brien
SSAC Chair