

**Universal Credit Policy Division**

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Social Security Advisory Committee  
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**UNIVERSAL CREDIT REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO FORMAL  
REFERRAL**

Dear Denise,

This is one of two letters concerning draft regulations for Universal Credit and related policy changes.

This letter is a formal request, in accordance with section 172 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, for the Committee to consider proposals for the following sets of regulations that are not exempt from referral under section 173(5) of the Act.

- ***The Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and Working-age Benefits (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2012:*** these deal with matters arising from decisions on claims to Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and Jobseeker's Allowance/Employment and Support Allowance (when those benefits are contributory benefits only): disputes and revisions, changes of circumstances, suspensions and the right of appeal.

- ***The Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and Working-age Benefits (Claims and Payments) Regulations 2012:*** these deal with matters concerning claims to Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and Jobseeker's Allowance/ Employment and Support Allowance (when those benefits are contributory benefits only) including restrictions on the form and time of claims; the arrangements for paying Universal Credit, including payments on a monthly basis; and deductions from Universal Credit, including those for third party payments, penalties and the recovery of benefit and tax credit overpayments.
- ***The Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 2012:*** these re-fresh the provisions for Jobseeker's Allowance on the basis that it will be a contributory benefit with conditionality requirements and sanctions similar to those which will apply to Universal Credit
- ***The Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2012 :*** these similarly provide for Employment and Support Allowance as a contributory benefit with conditionality requirements and sanctions aligned to the rules in Universal Credit.

For each set I attach an explanatory memorandum and draft regulations. Further changes will be made to the regulations before they are laid to improve the drafting and ensure that they accurately reflect the policy proposals described in the memorandum.

I will forward separately an equality impact assessment which looks at the overall impact of Universal Credit and related policy changes. I am also attaching a link to the equality impact assessment for the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) as both the Decisions and Appeals Regulations and the Claims and Payments Regulations mentioned above include provisions relating to PIP - <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-dla-reform-wr2011.pdf>

Each memorandum explains that the proposals for regulations go beyond a narrow view of the changes that are needed to support the introduction and policy aims of the new benefits. The Government's ambition in introducing Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment is not simply to create two new benefits but to transform and modernise the delivery of the system of working age benefits as a whole. In the case of decisions and appeals and claims and payments we are also taking the opportunity to re-structure and streamline the presentation of provisions that have become very unwieldy in the present sets of regulations. The contributory benefit regulations will similarly consolidate and simplify the existing legislation to improve clarity and transparency.

The Committee is invited to consider whether these regulations may be made without further formal references. I hope this letter, together with the explanatory memoranda, fully explains the proposals. Officials will attend the

Committee's June meeting to answer any queries members may have and we will be happy to provide any further information they may require.

**CHARLOTTE WIGHTWICK**  
**Deputy Director, Universal Credit Policy Division**