



UNIVERSAL DIS-CREDIT

We need a fairer social security system for all

Write to your MP

The purpose of writing is simply to try and influence your elected representative. You don't need to be an expert, you just need to show them you care about the issue.

Writing to your MP for the #Universal Dis-Credit campaign

- Introduce yourself by name, and let your MP know you are their constituent.
- Tell them you are writing to them because you think the £20 uplift to Universal Credit needs to be made permanent
- Please also mention that you are shocked people on other benefits have been left behind.
- Tell them why you are writing – make your letter as personal as possible. They will find it hard to ignore how the benefits system hurts their constituents and their families.

Write about what it is like to manage on such a small amount of money, and how it makes you feel.

- Ask clearly if they support the £20 increase to Universal Credit being made permanent
- Ask your MP to write to the Chancellor and demand the increase is made permanent.
- Tell them you look forward to receiving their response.
- End with your full name, address and postcode.

Tips for contacting your MP

- Be polite – don't give them an excuse to ignore your letter.
- Keep it simple: be brief & concise.
- Ask at least one question – this shows you expect an answer.
- Be clear about what action you are asking them to take.
- Keep it local: clear examples of why it matters in your constituency are always useful.
- Follow up – if you are not satisfied with your MP's answer, say so; write again – or even phone and ask for a conversation.
- Encourage family, friends and colleagues to get involved. The more people your MP hears from, the harder it is to ignore.

How to find your MP

If you don't know who your MP is, you can find out their name and contact details at the [Find Your MP](#) website. Alternatively, you can google your MP to find contact details.

SOME USEFUL FACTS AND FIGURES

Even with the £20 increase, Universal Credit (UC) is only worth 1/6th of the average weekly wage at £94 per week. If UC was paid at 80% of the real living wage, it would be £260 per week. (TUC, 2020)

The Trussell Trust found that foodbank use increased by a third in areas where Universal Credit had operated for a year and by 40% or more in areas where it had operated for longer. (2019)

In one recent Citizens Advice survey, over 50% of those claiming UC for the first time in lockdown, experienced hardship, and many were "too scared" to take out a DWP advance loan. (2020)

On applying the UC £20 increase to those on legacy benefits, the Government's own Social Security Advisory Committee state: "We are of the strong view that it is increasingly untenable for this group of claimants to be excluded and to continue to have a lower level of income than those in receipt of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit" (1st June, 2020)

