



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

Ministerial  
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Councillor Emily Smith  
Leader of the Council  
Vale of White Horse District Council  
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Our ref: MC2021/82814

14 October 2021

Dear Councillor Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 11 October to the Secretary of State about the Universal Credit uplift. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for this policy area.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Government's priority has been to protect lives and people's livelihoods. This includes continually supporting individuals and businesses. Universal Credit has provided a vital safety net for six million people during the pandemic, and we announced the temporary uplift as part of a COVID support package worth a total of £407 billion in 2020/21 and 2021/22. As part of the Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced that the temporary £20 a week increase in Universal Credit was to be extended for a further six months, until October. Eligible Working Tax Credit claimants received an equivalent one-off payment of £500.

The Government has always been clear that the £20 increase was a temporary measure to support households affected by the economic shock of Covid-19. As a result, Universal Credit Claimants Assessment Periods that ended on or after 6 October 2021 have not included the additional £20 per week.

There have been significant positive developments in the public health situation since the uplift was first introduced with the success of the vaccine roll-out. Now the economy is reopening and as we continue to progress with our recovery, our focus is on helping people to prepare for, get into and progress in work.

We recognise that some families may still require extra support for a variety of reasons, which is why we have introduced a £421 million Household Support Fund to help vulnerable people in England over the coming months with essential household costs. The Barnett formula will apply in the usual way, with the devolved administrations receiving £79 million on top of the £421 million for England, for a total of £500 million.

I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Rutley', with a horizontal line underneath.

**David Rutley MP**

**Minister for Welfare Delivery**