



Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

14 January 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Universal Credit uplift

Collectively our members provide homes for millions of people across the country. Together we are writing to urge the government to maintain the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift, which is due to end on 31 March 2021.

Throughout the response to the pandemic, the government has shown flexibility and responsiveness to provide unprecedented levels of support for people. From the furlough scheme, to mortgage holidays, these measures have made a real difference to the people we are proud to house.

Housing associations play active roles in their communities, giving us first-hand insight into the challenges our residents are facing. For many people on the lowest incomes who receive Universal Credit, the £20 per week uplift introduced by the government in April 2020 has made a significant difference.

When the uplift was first announced, we all hoped that the pandemic would have eased by now. While the roll-out of vaccines is a tremendous achievement, transmission rates have increased and the impact on daily life and the economy continues. Indeed, many housing associations are seeing an increase in rent arrears alongside growing numbers of people seeking support with meeting essential needs, like accessing food and paying for heating.

Extending the Universal Credit uplift will give people across the country greater security, support local economies, and ensure people are in a stronger position to contribute to the post-pandemic recovery to come.

We urge you to confirm the continuation of the Universal Credit uplift as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Evans
Chair of the G15

Matthew Walker
Chair, PlaceShapers

Victor da Cunha
Chair, Homes for
the South West

Tina Barnard
Chair, Build East