

Template Letter re UC

Dear [NAME OF YOUR] MP,

In the forthcoming Spring budget, I am urging you, your party and the constituency you represent to support the permanent maintenance of the £20 Universal Credit and Working tax credit uplift and extend it to legacy benefits. As the Joseph Rowntree Trust research indicates, the legacy benefits group are mainly disabled, sick and carers, and it is vital they do not continue to be excluded from this uplift. Even with the uplift many working and non-working benefit claimants are having to choose between food, fuel and rent, which is disgraceful at any time, not only during the pandemic. The JRF estimate that keeping the uplift for families on UC/WTC will cost around £6.4 billion (2021/22), and extending it to legacy benefits will cost a further £1.9 billion.

This position is also supported by Trust for London (Anwar 2021) and multiple other organisations as indicated in the JRF letter dd. 30 Sept 2020: Action for Children; The Association of Charitable Organisations; Barnardo's; Become; Bevan Foundation; Centrepont; Christians Against Poverty; Church Action on Poverty; Citizens Advice; Child Poverty Action Group; Disability Benefits Consortium (a network of over 100 disability organisations); End Child Poverty Coalition; The Equality Trust; The Fawcett Society; Feeding Britain; Gingerbread; Greater Manchester Poverty Action; Homeless Link; Independent Food Aid Network; Joseph Rowntree Foundation; Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales; Macmillan Cancer Support; The Mighty Creatives; Mind; Motor Neurone Disease Association; The MS Society; National AIDS Trust; National Children's Bureau; National Education Union; National Housing Federation; Neighbourly; New Horizons; North East Child Poverty Commission; Nourish Scotland; Oxfam GB; The Poverty Alliance; Rethink Mental Illness; The Rt Revd Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth; The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham; The Runnymede Trust; The Salvation Army; Save the Children; Scope; Shelter; StepChange; Transforming Lives for Good; The Trussell Trust; Trust for London; Turn2Us; UK Women's Budget Group; Voluntary Organisations Disability Group; Wales Council for Voluntary Action / CyngorGweithreduGwirfoddol Cymru; Women's Regional Consortium Northern Ireland; Z2K

Thank you for your attention,
Yours,
Name & Address

Evidence/references

Anwar, A. 2021. *Why the £20 uplift in Universal Credit must be extended to those on legacy benefits*. Trust for London. 18 February, 2021
<https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/news/why-the-uplift-in-universal-credit-must-be-extended-to-those-on-legacy-benefits/>

JRF. 2021. *Keep the lifeline: why the Government should keep the £20 uplift to Universal Credit*. 18th January 2021. Maddison, F and I. Porter <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/keep-lifeline-why-government-should-keep-20-uplift-universal-credit>

RRF. 2020. *Joint open letter to The Chancellor - Keep the lifeline*. 30th September, 2020. <https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/joint-open-letter-chancellor-keep-lifeline>