I am writing to ask you as my MP **to oppose the proposed cut to Universal Credit (UC) by £20 per week**. This represents more than one fifth of income that claimants depend on for essentials such as food, rent and heating.

People are using this money to keep a roof over their heads. [Generation Rent has revealed](#) that half a million private renter households are losing £53m a month because the benefits system is failing to cover their rent. At least 70,000 families have already been made homeless since March 2020, despite Government promises that no one would lose their home due to CV19.

Cutting the £20 uplift would force them and many more into further rent arrears, hunger, evictions and despair.

Many claimants who have not yet been moved on to UC missed out on the £20 uplift when it was introduced in March. Many of those claimants are disabled with underlying health conditions: their expenditures have significantly increased as a direct result of the pandemic and the need to shield for almost a year now.

I ask also that you **support the extension of the £20 uplift to legacy benefits**.

This personally affects me because… *[insert]*

Keeping and extending the uplift would have economic and social benefits, which will not be realised by the one-off payment suggested by the Chancellor as an alternative (and which claimants who have not yet been moved onto UC will not get).

UK social security payment levels represent only a relatively small percentage of the Minimum Income Standard (MIS), the amount the Joseph Rowntree Foundation say is needed for an acceptable standard of living. **After the uplift, UC payments are just 43.4% of the MIS**.

For those still on legacy benefits, as they have been throughout the pandemic, the amount they continue to receive in benefits represents **just 33.9% of the MIS.**

Keeping and extending the £20 uplift is vitally important to prevent greater poverty, debt, homelessness and misery and to help those currently out of work to find employment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

[address]

[email]