

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th November 2020

New Contract,

RE: TEMPORARY £20 UNIVERSAL CREDIT & WORKING TAX CREDITS UPLIFT

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the £20 per week temporary uplift to Universal Credit (UC) and Working Tax Credits (WTC); your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

As I am sure you are aware, this extra support was announced by the Chancellor as a temporary measure in March 2020, to support those facing the most financial disruption as a result of the Coronavirus public health emergency. The Government has also introduced measures such as mortgage holidays, additional support for renters and has worked with energy suppliers to protect those struggling with energy bills - all aimed at supporting those who need it most.

As I understand the situation, the statutory annual review of benefits does not include the need for a decision on the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits. Under the existing arrangements, the uplifts remain in place until the end of March. I am assured, however, that the Government will continue to assess how best to support low-income families in the economic and health context, and that decisions on the future of the uplift will be made in the new year.

In the meantime, I know my colleagues in the Department for Work & Pensions remain focused on supporting people by helping them get back into work through the Government's 'Plan for Jobs'. This includes launching the Kickstart Scheme, which is backed by a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of new, fully funded jobs for young people.

I will, however, pass the concerns you have raised with me on to Ministers as they consider future policy.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE