

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

25th March 2021

Jew Confront,

RE: EXTENSION TO THE UPLIFT FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND WORKING TAX CREDITS (WTC)

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits.

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 likely to be facing the most financial disruption as a result of the public health emergency. The Government has also introduced measures such as mortgage holidays and additional support for renters, and has worked with energy suppliers to protect those struggling with energy bills.

I welcome that, on top of the planned uprating, the Government is extending the temporary £20 per week increase to the Universal Credit standard allowance until the end of September 2021. This measure will apply to all new and existing Universal Credit claimants, and means that the additional support will remain in place well beyond the end of economic restrictions.

The Government is also making a one-off payment of £500 to eligible WTC claimants across the UK, to provide continued extra support over the next six months. In parallel, 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'.

I am encouraged to hear that the £2 billion 'Kickstart' scheme has already seen over 145,000 vacancies created from a range of different sectors for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit, with thousands of young people already in 'Kickstart' roles. This will give young people the practical experience that we know is so crucial in securing sustainable employment. Furthermore, the £2.9 billion 'Restart' scheme, launching in the summer of 2021, will provide intensive help to over a million jobseekers who have been out of work for over 12 months.

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,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE