



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th July 2021

Jean Contrevent,

RE: UNIVERSAL CREDIT & WORKING TAX CREDITS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit 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 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.

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 also 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, without thousands of young people already in 'Kickstart' roles. This will give our young people the practical experience that we know is so crucial in securing sustainable employment. Furthermore, the £2.9 billion 'Restart' scheme, which commenced on the 28th June 2021, and referrals to providers as of the 12th July, will provide intensive help to over a million jobseekers who have been out of work for over twelve 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**