



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ministerial
Correspondence **0207 340 4000**
Caxton House
Tothill Street **www.gov.uk**
LONDON
SW1H 9DA
ministers@dp.gov.uk

Your ref: HD/JT

Mr Henry Downey
downeyh@belfastcity.gov.uk

Our ref: MC2021/25967

8 April 2021

Dear Mr Downey,

As you may know, your letter of 10 March to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit has been passed to this Department for reply. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for this policy area.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Government's priority has been to protect lives and people's livelihoods. That is why the Chancellor announced in the recent Budget that the Government is extending the temporary £20 a week increase in Universal Credit for a further six months, until the end of September, taking it well beyond the end of this national lockdown. Eligible Working Tax Credit claimants will receive a one-off payment of £500. It is right that the Government should now shift its focus to supporting people back into work and we have a comprehensive Plan for Jobs which the Budget builds upon.

I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Kind regards,

Will Quince MP

Minister for Welfare Delivery