

XXXXXXXX

House of Commons
London

SW1A 0AA

Dear XXXXX

**Re: Proposal to remove Universal Credit £20 Uplift**

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on behalf of the Liverpool City Region Housing Association (LCRHA) group regarding the proposals to remove the £20 uplift in Universal Credit.

Social landlords provide homes for around one in five residents across the City Region and we have seen first-hand the positive impact the £20 uplift has had during a very uncertain time for low-income families. We believe there are a number of risks to removing the benefit at this point, including tipping local people into poverty, risking the regional recovery and jeopardising the Government’s levelling up agenda.

Universal Credit is a springboard for people on low incomes, providing them with a reasonable amount to live on as they work to become more self-sufficient. We know from first-hand experience that the additional money is being used to put food on the table, heat homes and prevent people plunging into debt, whilst they build up their income from work. £20 per week may not seem like much but it makes a tangible difference.

The scale of the potential impact of removing the £20 uplift is illustrated by the fact that over 70,000 people in the region claim Universal Credit.[[1]](#footnote-1) It is also a growing issue, as the number of claims for Universal Credit rose 63% in the Liverpool City Region between March and April 2020 and 74% since April 2019.[[2]](#footnote-2)

After a sometimes-difficult start for Universal Credit, and following a number of helpful changes, we have begun to see improvements in how the system is operating. Removing the uplift now will risk the progress that has been made in implementing this signature welfare reform at the worst possible time when our collective focus must be on the regional recovery.

On behalf of the LCRHA group of housing associations, we would greatly appreciate your support in raising our concerns with your colleagues in Parliament. I would also welcome the opportunity for a more detailed discussion if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwen Rapley

Chair, Liverpool City Region Housing Associations

Chief Executive, Onward Homes

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Michael Birkett

Deputy Chair, Liverpool City Region Housing Associations

Chief Executive, The Regenda Group

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1. 71,230 people in the LCR claim UC <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/comb/1853882372/report.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/buildingbackbetter/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)