Rt. Hon Frank Field MP  
Chair, Work and Pensions Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

13 February 2019

Thank you for your letter dated 29 January 2019. I note that you are asking about further clarification around the two written parliamentary questions that the Department has answered in regards to the number of gainfully self-employed Universal Credit claimants and what progress has been made to ensure 50,000 claimants of Universal Credit are in gainful self-employment by Summer 2019.

Your questions were answered by stating that we plan to publish statistics on Universal Credit and self-employment, including gainfully self-employed and non-gainfully self-employed claimant numbers, in Spring 2019. This is still the case.

It may help if I clarify the 50,000 self-employed claimants figure. As you rightly point out, this figure was used in reference to the Government response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee report on Universal Credit: supporting self-employment.

We stated that in order to draw a robust and representative sample for our planned tracking survey of self-employed Universal Credit claimants, a minimum of 50,000 self-employed claimants will be required to be on the Universal Credit caseload. This should, we believe, allow the Department to draw a large enough sample to support the tracking survey. This is different from ensuring 50,000 Universal Credit claimants are in gainful self-employment, because the self-employed caseload includes both gainfully self-employed claimants and those who fall outside of gainful self-employment.

I hope this answers your question.