The Rt Hon Frank Field MP  
House of Commons

21st May 2019

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 2019.

I am glad that you found our letter useful and I appreciate your further interest in the matter that we outlined. The Department is currently in the process of assessing the impacts of making changes to the housing calculation – to understand how a different formula might operate and the impact on the delivery of Universal Credit and departmental expenditure.

As I noted in my previous letter, we would need to carefully consider the legislation we would need to make changes to the formula, as well as the build changes to Universal Credit Full Service. Changes would also have implications for AME which would need to be factored into the Department’s spending plans. As you will be aware, the Chancellor confirmed in March that the Government will be holding a Spending Review and that this process will conclude alongside the Budget.

We will, of course, report back to the Committee with further information once we have completed our consideration, and would hope to be able to do so by Autumn 2019.

Best wishes,

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS