Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions

18 June 2019

Dear Amber,

Thank you for your very prompt response to my letter of 22 May about the Universal Credit (Managed Migration Pilot and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2019. I would be very grateful if you could answer some further questions arising from your letter.

Your letter says that it is “necessary” for the provisions for payments for former SDP recipients to be included in the same instrument as the provisions necessary for the Department to pilot the managed migration of claimants to Universal Credit.

1. Might you please explain to us in detail why this is necessary, from both a legal and a policy perspective?

We recognise that the provision for former SDP claimants, as drafted in the Regulations currently before Parliament, does depend on regulations 55, 56 and 57.

2. Would it not be possible for the necessary provisions to be replicated in a standalone instrument providing for payments for former SDP recipients? If not, why not?

3. Might you please share with us any advice you have had which indicates that this is not possible?

Your letter also says that “it would not be logical to set up a transitional protection scheme that is separate to transitional protection as a whole”.

4. Might you please explain your reasoning here in more detail?

5. In particular, given that the Regulations currently before the House provide for a separate means of calculating transitional protection for former SDP claimants (referred to as “the transitional SDP amount”), has the Department not already in effect set up a separate transitional protection scheme for these claimants, which could operate independently of other transitional protection?

I would be very grateful to receive your response by 25 June 2019.

Best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP  
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee