Alok Sharma MP
Minister of State for Employment

Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA

Tel: 0207 340 4000

Email

www.gov.uk/dwp

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October 2018. Ahead of my appearance with the Select Committee on Thursday, you requested information on what assessment the Government has made of the likely impact of Managed Migration, beyond the information provided in the Department’s note of 1 June 2018 to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

As you are already aware the DWP published an equality impact assessment for Universal Credit in 2011 and an Impact Assessment in 2012. Managed Migration extends the benefits of Universal Credit to legacy benefit claimants.

We do not underestimate the challenge that Managed Migration represents and we are working closely with stakeholders, including many in Scotland, to design the best solution. We are keeping our options open on the detail of the design but our focus will be on safeguarding claimants and ensuring a smooth transition with uninterrupted support.

Transitional Protection, which formed part of the equality impact assessment in 2011 and the Impact Assessment in 2012, is designed to ensure that claimants who the Department move to Universal Credit as part of Managed Migration do not see a reduction in their entitlement as a result of this transition. As with the roll-out of the Universal Credit Full Service we are committed to taking a test and learn approach adapting our processes as we learn from evaluation.

The draft Regulations have been out for consultation with the Social Security Advisory Committee and we are currently reviewing their detailed advice which we will consider alongside all the other stakeholder contributions we continue to receive.
The regulations will come before Parliament in the autumn; during 2019 we will test and refine our processes on a small scale to ensure they are working well before we take on larger volumes from 2020 onwards, and complete the process in 2023.

In line with Ministers’ legal duties equality impacts have been considered on all major changes to Universal Credit and we will continue to consider them as we develop our approach in response to evaluation from our test and learn approach. We do not publish these assessments.

I will continue to work with the Work and Pensions Select Committee and provide any relevant information as and when I can.

Kind regards,

Alok Sharma MP
Minister of State for Employment