Frank Field MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11th October 2018

Dear Frank,

Re: Managed migration of Universal Credit

I am writing to you in relation to your role as a Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee on the topic of the forthcoming managed migration of Universal Credit.

With the managed migration due to commence in 2019, and with the final plans for the process due to be published by the Department for Work and Pensions around the end of October, now is a critical time for ensuring that full scrutiny is given to final proposals. With that in mind Shelter would encourage the Select Committee to look in detail at the managed migration process in the coming weeks and months.

As the largest housing and homelessness charity in England - providing support and advice to those in housing need up and down the country – Universal Credit is already an issue that we see every day in our services. With the next stage of the roll out seeing the more than 3 million people still claiming legacy benefits move onto Universal Credit, we know that it will be something that impacts many of our existing clients and that may lead to new individuals and families turning to us for support.

At the end of October, the Department for Work & Pensions is expected to lay out its final plans for how this process will be taken forward, having published its draft regulations in June. These final plans will respond to the Social Security Advisory Committee’s consultation on the migration.

Shelter remains concerned that if the Department’s final plans continue along the same lines as the initial plans that were published then there are likely to be significant problems, including:

- The migration process placing the requirement on applicants to reapply rather than utilising a process of automatic migration;
- The proposal to inform claimants of the need to reapply only by post;
- The lack of support proposed for those migrating, particularly the most vulnerable, which risks leaving many without their benefits;
- The lack of a full timetable for the rollout and a lack of pauses for review of the process following commencement.
The Select Committee is obviously well placed to provide the necessary scrutiny of final proposals, and we would strongly encourage the Committee to consider holding an inquiry into the final managed migration plans.

We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss our concerns around the managed migration in more detail on a one-to-one basis.

Yours sincerely

\[Signature\]

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CEO, Shelter