



# Work and Pensions Committee

14 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NB

Tel 020 7219 5831 Email [workpencom@parliament.uk](mailto:workpencom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/workpencom](http://www.parliament.uk/workpencom)

From the Chair

2 October 2017

Rt Hon David Gauke MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London, SW1H 9DA

*Dear David*

## **Advance payments of Universal Credit**

In your party conference speech, announcing that the accelerated rollout of full service Universal Credit would proceed from 4 October, you said:

I can announce today that we are refreshing the guidance to DWP staff to ensure that anyone who needs an advance payment will be offered it up-front. Claimants who want an advance payment will not have to wait six weeks. They will receive this advance within 5 working days.

And if someone is in immediate need, then we fast track the payment, meaning they will receive it on the same day.

I would be grateful if you could please set out:

1. what changes you have made, or intend to make, to the guidance;
2. whether the Committee could receive a copy of the existing and new guidance;
3. when the revised guidance will be available to front-line staff;
4. how "immediate need" will be defined for the purposes of determining eligibility for fast track payments; and
5. how you intend to monitor compliance with these new policies across Jobcentre Plus sites.

Best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP  
Chair

*Frank Field*