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Stuart Ramsay
Second Clerk,
Work and Pensions Committee,
House of Commons

[REDACTED]

Date: 13 August 2019

Dear Mr Ramsay

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2019 concerning the evidence provided by the Department to the Joint Inquiry.

You have asked for clarification on aspects of the IT work currently being undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to enable the delivery of payment flexibilities in Northern Ireland. In particular you have asked if this ongoing work included the provision of fortnightly Universal Credit statements.

I can advise that as part of the ongoing work with DWP it is proposed that user researchers will visit Northern Ireland to test possible scenarios with Universal Credit claimants. The engagement will be voluntary for claimants and is expected to take place later this month. This means that the current timescale for the delivery of a revised Universal Credit statement remains on course for the end of September 2019.

I should explain that the proposed change will result in claimants receiving a monthly Universal Credit statement at the end of each Assessment Period. This statement will contain additional information regarding the twice monthly payments approach in Northern Ireland.

I trust this information will be helpful.

Yours sincerely



ANNE McCLEARY
Director