

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The economics of Universal Credit

Call for evidence

The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean, is inquiring into the economics of Universal Credit.

The Committee will examine whether Universal Credit is meeting its original objectives and whether the policy assumptions reflected in its design are appropriate for different groups of claimants. The Committee will also examine the extent to which Universal Credit meets the needs of claimants in today's labour market and changing world of work. It intends to make recommendations to Government.

The Committee is seeking evidence on the following questions:

- How well has Universal Credit met its original objectives?
- Were the original objectives and assumptions the right ones? How should they change?
- What have been the positive and negative economic effects of Universal Credit?
- What effect has fiscal retrenchment had on the ability of Universal Credit to successfully deliver its objectives?
- Which claimants have benefited most from the Universal Credit reforms and which have lost out?
- How has the world of work changed since the introduction of Universal Credit? Does Universal Credit's design adequately reflect the reality of low-paid work?
- If Universal Credit does not adequately reflect the lived experiences of low-paid workers, how should it be reformed?

This is a public call for written evidence to be submitted to the Committee. The deadline is 29 February 2020.

House of Lords reports make recommendations to HM Government. Universal Credit is a partially devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and it is a reserved matter in Wales. As such this inquiry will focus on scrutinising the economics of Universal Credit in England and Wales.

When preparing your response, please bear in mind that short, concise submissions are preferred. Responses should not be longer than five sides of A4. The Committee cannot accept anything that has not been prepared specifically in response to this call for evidence, or that has been published elsewhere.

Diversity comes in many forms, and hearing a range of different perspectives means that Committees are better informed and can more effectively scrutinise public policy and

legislation. Committees can undertake their role most effectively when they hear from a wide range of individuals, sectors or groups in society affected by a particular policy or piece of legislation. We encourage anyone with experience or expertise of an issue under investigation by a select committee to share their views with the committee, with the full knowledge that their views have value and are welcome.

Guidance on how to submit evidence is overleaf.

ANNEX I: Guidance for Submissions

Written submissions should be submitted online, as a Word document, at <https://www.parliament.uk/economics-universal-credit>. This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence.

If you have difficulty submitting online, please contact the Committee staff by email at economicaffairs@parliament.uk or by telephoning 020 7219 5358. **The deadline for written evidence is 29 February 2020.**

Short submissions are preferred. Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions which have been previously published elsewhere will not be accepted as evidence.

Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are produced and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy directly.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at <https://www.parliament.uk/economics-universal-credit>