I am writing to provide a formal response to the question you raised during the Universal Credit (Work Related Requirements) In Work Pilot Scheme and Amendment Regulations 2015 debate on the 14th January 2015. You asked whether provision for In-Work Conditionality support was currently included in the Universal Credit Strategic Outline Business Case and, if not, whether we envisage the Outline Business Case, due in the summer will contain this provision?

I have now checked with officials and can confirm that the current Universal Credit Strategic Outline Business Case contains two elements relating to the provision of in-work services. The first provides for the delivery of the light touch regime to working Universal Credit claimants. The second element of funding provides for the testing and trialling of in-work support. In total £15million has been set aside in the Business Case to support this.

As the trial activity begins we will build robust evidence to provide indicative costings for further In-Work Conditionality provision within the Outline Business Case. We will monitor this closely over the coming months. I hope this is helpful and provides the clarification you were seeking.

I am copying this letter to the other Members who were present during the debate, and will place a copy of it in the House Library.

Best wishes,

Rt Hon Esther McVey MP
Minister for Employment