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Baroness Sherlock  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Baroness Sherlock,

### **Universal Credit (Transitional Provisions) Amendment Regulations 2022**

Thank you for tabling your Regret Motion on The Universal Credit (Transitional Provisions) Amendment Regulations 2022. The motion was discussed in the House on Monday 24th October, and I promised, to write to Peers to answer any question I was unable to respond to during that debate.

During the debate you asked, regarding The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) in relation to its report published on 26th May 2022. This report provided recommendations following its formal reference of managed migration on the regulations. At the debate you asked, 'has the department been able to satisfy SSAC any further since then.'

The Government response to SSAC's recommendations was published, on 4th July 2022, when the regulations were laid in Parliament. The Department welcomed and thanked the committee and noted all their recommendations. The response reassured the Committee DWP is aware of their concerns, and we have comprehensive governance and external engagement arrangements in place. We are testing and learning and understand how important it is to make the move as smooth as possible and give extra support to claimants. We are taking steps to protect vulnerable claimants.

You also asked an important question on uprating. Pointing out that the value of transitional protection will be different before the next financial year or after, so if somebody moves before, they will be worse off than if they move after.

You will appreciate, with decisions on uprating benefits being considered, it is not possible to provide further comment on this at present. However, it may be helpful to understand the principle of transitional protection, and how it will erode over time, including due to the uprating of the underlying elements of UC.

Transitional protection is not intended to be an indefinite increase in a UC claimant's entitlement, or to permanently replicate legacy benefit awards, it is intended to protect benefit entitlement levels at the point claimants move to the new benefit system. This provides those required to move time to adjust to the new benefit system. It is a long-standing principle that transitional protection will be reduced as other elements of the benefit are increased or awarded anew.

Over time a claimant's overall benefit entitlement will, in line with the principle of equality of treatment between claimants gradually align with the entitlement of other new Universal Credit claimants in the same circumstances. For example, those who are required to claim benefit for the first time and those legacy benefit claimants who are required to claim UC following a change of circumstance.

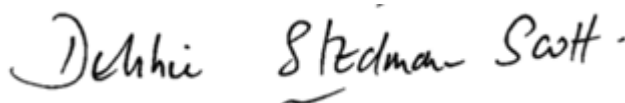
You also asked whatever those rates are, will the Government do anything about that. Specifically, will the department warn a claimant who could choose to migrate either side of the line that they will be worse off if they go this side of the line.

We would avoid giving any standard or blanket advice to claimants when informing them they need migrate. Each claimant has differing circumstances, and it is therefore not necessarily assured that a delay to moving to UC will therefore be in their best interest as many claimants would be better off claiming UC. If claimants have questions or concerns about moving to UC having received a Migration Notice they can seek help from contacts on the migration notice.

Thank you once again for contributing to what was a constructive and well-timed debate, I look forward to working with you further on these issues in future. I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House library.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Stedman Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish under the name "Stedman".

**BARONESS STEDMAN-SCOTT  
MINISTER FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (LORDS)**