

Jim McMahon OBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Level 3
Civic Centre
West Street
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SM/WILK01005/01170483

19 October 2017

Dear Dr Wilkins

Re: Universal Credit Council Resolution

Thank you for contacting me with regards to the above council resolution, though please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

I can assure Council that I have done a great amount of work regarding Universal Credit and will continue to press the Government on this issue. I understand that the current system is failing countless constituents in Oldham, whereby delays and miscalculations are leaving many in debt and depression, and I have listened first-hand to the concerns of those directly affected by Universal Credit. As you may know, I called together a meeting of charities and public bodies to discuss this matter.

I am further grateful to Oldham Council for the valuable information and statistics which have helped and continue to help highlight the salience of the issue at hand. I am in agreement with the council resolution raised, which acknowledges that a new and improved design and delivery of Universal Credit is needed in order to mitigate impacts for low income, working age residents in Oldham.

While the Conservatives have made recent changes to telephone charges in relation to Universal Credit, much more needs to be done. I and my Labour colleagues will therefore continue to hold the Conservatives to account, in seeking to call for further revision of a system which is failing so many.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McMahon".

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Member of Parliament
Oldham West & Royton

Serving the Communities of Chadderton, Royton and Oldham