



Scotland's Housing Network

Welfare Reform Good Practice Forums

UC Flexibilities

- Scottish Government consultation published:
 - <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/low-income-benefits/universal-credit-claims-and-payments/>
 - Deadline for responses March 13th
- Consultation includes draft regulations
 - Implementation June 2017?
 - To full service areas only.



“Work with DWP to deliver the flexibilities is progressing. We need to also progress the legislation that will be required. It’s important that we gather your views on the draft regulations and whether they are fit for purpose.”

Jeane Freeman, Minister for Social Security

UC Flexibilities?

- Managed Payment to Landlords
 - Option with agreement of claimant
 - But if claimant subject to benefit cap?
- Frequency of payment
 - Twice monthly option
 - But UC still a monthly assessment



UC Rollout 2017

- March
 - Midlothian (Penicuik, Dalkeith)
- June
 - Clackmannan (Alloa)
 - Stirling (Stirling)
- July
 - Highland (Dingwall, Fort William, Invergordon, Portree, Wick)



UC – Accelerated Rollout

- October
 - East Ayrshire
 - South Lanarkshire
- November
 - Angus
 - Dundee
 - North Ayrshire
- December
 - Fife

UC Survey

- Monthly questionnaire from SFHA – valuable feedback from associations on how it's going.
- Number of known claimants:
 - September: 640, of whom 414 in arrears (65%)
 - October: 667, of whom 528 in arrears (79%)
 - November: 1,117, of whom 749 in arrears (67%)
- Average arrear:
 - £603 (Sept), £638 (Oct), £897 (Nov)

UC Survey

- In November
 - 17 of the 127 new cases known of were advised by the DWP using UC179
 - 16% of respondents thought the service was getting better
 - 64% thought the service was staying the same
 - 20% thought the service was getting worse
 - Of those thinking the service as stating the same, well over half gave it a negative rating.

Implicit consent

- Full service issue
- No implicit consent in full service areas.

Explanation from Damian Green:

- Reason “cyber security measures”
- Claimants who are “confident and capable” have “ability to access their online account and advise their representative of relevant claim information.”

Local Housing Allowance

- To come in April 2019
 - Affects all UC Tenants
 - HB tenants with tenancy starts since April 2016
 - Transitional protection for tenants on HB with tenancies before April 2016 migrating to UC
- Still time to submit evidence to Select Committees' Inquiry (03/02/2017) and to DWP Consultation (13/02/2017) on Supported Housing.