

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Thank you to all of those who have sent emails to me about Universal Credit. Many of you will have either been personally affected by the changes brought in by this Government.

This is a system that is failing, but the Government are refusing to put it right. The impact of Universal Credit continues to hit households and individuals across the country. Birmingham Northfield has been no exception. There have been a whole host of problems with UC rollout and the transfer of those from legacy benefits like JSA onto UC. Claimants are still experiencing hardship as a result of delays to payments, while others are losing out on money they were previously getting. In Parliament I have been raising particular issues affecting constituents. Most recently, I raised the particular issue of those with more than two children who have been told they must migrate onto UC, but when they try to migrate they are told that they can't. But by the time the application goes through the whole process, their other benefits have already been stopped, causing serious hardship in the meantime. You can see my question to the Government [here](#).

As is well known, the problems with UC just make things harder for people to make ends meet. Around 20% of people in the UK now live below the poverty line and food bank usage has shot up by 13% in the last year. Worse still, 42% of children in Birmingham are growing up in households that are in poverty. It becomes clearer and clearer by the month that UC is not working and that its rollout is having a disastrous effect on people's lives. The Government have shown reluctance to acknowledge the systematic problems with UC and only take action after being pressed into it for months and months by MPs, campaign groups and individuals up and down the country. Labour have been clear that the Government must stop the roll out of UC, particularly as each month brings new problems. We must continue to press the Government into action.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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