

The Rt. Hon. Dr Thérèse Coffey
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions
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**Councillor Sue Cooper
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Dr Coffey,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council regarding Universal Basic Income (UBI) and the potential of it being trialled within our district.

The current economic model and welfare system is simply not fit for purpose. It leaves too many people without the money to meet the most basic of needs. With the transition towards increased automation, the rise of the gig economy and the effects of globalisation it is likely that an increasing number of individuals and families will be forced into poverty unless fundamental changes are made. That is why South Oxfordshire are calling for the UK to introduce a UBI.

A UBI would provide every citizen a fixed, regular, unconditional income. It would allow individuals to pay for the essentials of life (food, shelter and education) and be a fair way of eliminating poverty, guaranteeing a minimum standard of living and improving wellbeing.

In recent years, several countries have laid the groundwork for its potential introduction, from Finland's time-limited trials to Spain's proposals to roll out a UBI as part of its Covid-19 economic recovery. South Oxfordshire believes that it is now time for the UK to commit to pursuing such a change.

We, therefore, request that HM Government undertakes pilot studies – including in South Oxfordshire – which will gather evidence on the effectiveness of a UBI on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Sue Cooper
Leader of the Council**

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