

David Johnston OBE, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Wantage
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

David.Rouane@southoxon.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422693
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Oxon
OX14 4SB

18 October 2021

Dear Mr Johnston,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council to express our dismay at HM Government's choice to cut the £20 uplift in Universal Credit. We have written letters to both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (copies of which are enclosed) requesting that this decision is reversed and that the uplift is instead permanently incorporated into the system.

We are disappointed that HM Government has overseen the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since the foundation of the modern welfare state – especially at a time of increased economic uncertainty and rising living costs. Their decision has taken support away from low-income working families (of which 5000+ are located within our district) and placed many of these households in a perilous financial position. This, in turn, will impact on the demand for our council services, which are already under considerable strain.

South Oxfordshire hope that you will support us in our request to see that this cut is reversed as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak, M.P.
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

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Leader of the Council**

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Dear Mr Sunak,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council to express our dismay at HM Government's choice to cut the £20 uplift in Universal Credit. We request that this decision is reversed and that the uplift is instead permanently incorporated into the system.

The Council finds it unconscionable that HM Government would take much needed support away from lower-income households when they need it most, especially with the significant increases in the cost of living. To undermine the finances of working families at this juncture, when there is so much economic uncertainty, contradicts any claim that you are acting in a fair and compassionate manner. We, therefore, share the grave concerns expressed by local and national charities about the potential impact of this cut on the financial security and wellbeing of households who rely on this support to simply survive.

While South Oxfordshire have noted statements from Ministers regarding the UK moving to a high-wage economy, it would appear illogical to us that you would decide to oversee the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security at the start of this supposed transition rather than at its end. The 5,000+ families in our district directly affected by this decision cannot pay their bills, feed their children or heat their homes on the potential future prospect of increased pay packets.

We request – as a matter of urgency – that you reverse the decision to cut the £20 uplift in Universal Credit.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX14 4SB www.southoxon.gov.uk

The Rt. Hon. Dr Thérèse Coffey
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions
Private Office
4th Floor
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9DA

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The Council finds it unconscionable that HM Government would take much needed support away from lower-income households when they need it most, especially with the significant increases in the cost of living. To undermine the finances of working families at this juncture, when there is so much economic uncertainty, contradicts any claim that you are acting in a fair and compassionate manner. We, therefore, share the grave concerns expressed by local and national charities about the potential impact of this cut on the financial security and wellbeing of households who rely on this support to simply survive.

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We request – as a matter of urgency – that you reverse the decision to cut the £20 uplift in Universal Credit.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



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