

# **Press release: Universal Credit – payments and labour market reports published**

Research also shows Universal Credit offers real personalised service, providing more support to help people find a job. New figures show that Universal Credit claimants are 4 percentage points more likely to be in work within 6 months than people who claimed Jobseeker's Allowance.

Universal Credit payments are designed to mirror the world of work, with monthly payments reflecting the way many working people are paid. Work coaches can support claimants in getting budgeting advice, and research shows that 3 in 4 claimants felt confident about budgeting on a monthly basis.

Today's research also shows that, for full service claimants, nearly 80% receive their first payment in full and on time.

Universal Credit is already in every jobcentre for single claimants, and Universal Credit full service is being gradually rolled out across the country for all types of claimants.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, David Gauke said:

Universal Credit lies at the heart of welfare reform which is helping people to improve their lives by supporting them into work.

Universal Credit provides claimants with an unprecedented level of personalised support which takes into account their individual circumstances and makes work pay. We have been rolling out Universal Credit in a careful, safe and controlled way, allowing us to make improvements as we go. We want to ensure that payments are made on time and that people can take up all the extra support that didn't exist under the previous system.

Read the Universal Credit reports:

Some of the main findings are as follows.

## **Reports around payment timeliness**

### **Timeliness**

There has been an improvement in the payment timeliness figures over the last few months:

- in June 2017 92% of claimants received their full payment on time
- for all new Universal Credit claimants, around 76% receive their first payment in full and on time
- for full service claimants, around 77% receive their first payment in full and on time – this is a positive trend
- for new claims there are a number of one-off verification processes that must be completed and these can sometimes be delayed

## **Advances**

Advances can be paid in the initial stages of a claim to help people who have short term budgeting issues. Claimants can receive up to 50% of their monthly entitlement, and we need to be confident they can repay the money. The advances are paid back over the initial months of the claim.

The data shows people are accessing support when they need it:

- 49% of new claims who were due a payment in June 2017 had an advance paid
- 45% of full service new claims who were due a payment in the same period had an advance paid
- 71% of all advances paid were new claim or change in circumstances advances

## **Waiting days**

Waiting days are served, primarily, by those people coming out of employment. A range of groups are exempt from waiting days:

- people who are terminally ill
- victims of domestic violence
- care leavers or 16-17 year olds without parental support
- prison-leavers
- people who return to Universal Credit within a certain period of time, or who migrate over from legacy benefits within certain time periods will not serve waiting days

Currently the Universal Credit caseload is primarily made up of single childless claimants who are more likely to move in and out of employment than other claimant types, so are more likely to serve waiting days:

- as at June 2017, 75% of Universal Credit awards are paid to single people with no children
- between May 2016 and June 2017 64% of all households served waiting days
- 75% of single childless claimants, in the same period, served waiting days

## **Reports around the labour market**

### **Universal Credit Employment Impact analysis**

- Universal Credit has a positive impact on employment outcomes. Universal

Credit claimants are 4 percentage points more likely to be in work within 6 months than a matched sample of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants

- the most recent data is supported by improved data and a larger cohort of claimants – 27,000 Universal Credit claims

## **Test and learn evaluation – families**

Some test and learn evaluation was carried out with families in July 2015 and August 2016. Since this research was done we have improved the service and information available to families. The research found:

- Universal Credit claimants had flexible attitudes to work and were confident about applying for jobs
- 3 in 4 claimants felt confident about budgeting on a monthly basis

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## **[News story: The AAIB has sent a team to East Midlands Airport](#)**

[unable to retrieve full-text content]The AAIB has sent a team to East Midlands Airport, Leicestershire

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## **[News story: Parsons Green incident](#)**

Officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command are investigating after an incident on a London tube train this morning.

Police were called at approximately 08:20hrs today (Friday, 15 September) to Parsons Green Underground Station following reports of a fire on the train.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the senior national coordinator for CT policing, has declared it a terrorist incident.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police Service and British Transport Police attended the scene, along with colleagues from London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service.

At present we are aware of a number of casualties.

It is too early to confirm the cause of the fire, which will be subject to

the investigation that is now underway by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

The station remains cordoned off and are advising people to avoid the area.

Anyone who has information that would assist detectives is urged to contact the hotline 0800 789321; if it's any emergency always call 999.

Anyone with images from the scene is asked to upload them to [www.ukpoliceimageappeal.co.uk](http://www.ukpoliceimageappeal.co.uk).

We urge the public to remain calm but alert and if you have any concerns, see or hear anything suspicious then contact police.

## News updates

For latest updates on the incident you can [read more on the Metropolitan Police website](#).

You can follow [@MetPoliceUK](#) and [@BTP](#) for Twitter updates on the incident.

## Protective Security Advice

### Stay Safe – Run Hide, Tell:

[Advice for the public on the steps they can take to keep themselves safe in the rare event of a firearms or weapons attack.](#)

## Useful information

Find out more about the [Action Counters Terrorism campaign](#).

If you see anything that causes you concern or raises your suspicions do not hesitate to call the Police on 0800 789 321 or in an emergency 999. If you get caught up in the rare event of a weapons attack we urge you to follow the Run, Hide, Tell advice.

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## [Press release: Dstl supports STEM at DSEI](#)

Showcasing Dstl's support for STEM careers.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) actively supports and

encourages young people to take up exciting and rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Today, Friday 15th September 2017, at the People and Skills day at the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) event in London, Dstl is encouraging those interested in a STEM career to visit its stand and try out some hands-on experiments including a laboratory dexterity challenge and a colour vision team challenge.

Dstl's STEM Ambassadors will be available to demonstrate the science and technology behind the latest high-tech kit that supports the defence and security of the UK. They'll also be able to offer careers advice to young people who are interested in pursuing a career in a STEM subject. Dstl offers apprenticeships, student placements and graduate opportunities in a broad range of STEM disciplines.

Dstl's STEM Outreach Manager Jaime Williamson said:

It's important that students understand the opportunities available to them if they continue to pursue their STEM studies. At Dstl, our work involves solving fascinating problems for the defence and security of the UK, often with life-saving results. We need experts in all STEM subjects, and we hope to meet the next generation of problem-solvers at DSEI.

Visit the Dstl stand at DSEI number N3-582a.

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## **Press release: PM meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak: 14 Sept 2017**

The Prime Minister welcomed Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak to Downing Street on 14 September with Defence Secretary Michael Fallon also in attendance.

The leaders spoke of the deep and historical ties between the UK and Malaysia and agreed on the importance of taking steps to enhance our bilateral relationship. They noted that that 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries as well as the 60th anniversary of Malaysian independence.

The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Najib discussed the ongoing crisis in Rakhine in Burma with the Prime Minister reiterating the importance of the

Burmese authorities allowing unfettered access for humanitarian assistance in the country. The leaders agreed that the UK and Malaysia should co-ordinate on the provision of humanitarian assistance in Burma and in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Najib also agreed on the continuing importance of Commonwealth values and spoke of the steps being taken to renew the organisation including at the Commonwealth Summit in London next year.

They discussed the importance of the existing defence relationship between the UK and Malaysia with both countries being party to the Five Power Defence arrangements.

The leaders spoke about the opportunities that the UK's exit from the EU will offer and committed to exploring ways to deepen the trade and investment relationship between the UK and Malaysia.

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to personally express her condolences to Prime Minister Najib for the loss of life in the Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah Tahfiz school fire.