NOTICES OF AMENDMENTS
given up to and including
Tuesday 21 July 2015

New Amendments handed in are marked thus ★
★ Amendments which will comply with the required notice period at their next appearance
Amendments tabled since the last publication: 22 to 65

PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE

WELFARE REFORM AND WORK BILL

NOTE

This document includes all amendments tabled to date, arranged in the order they relate to the Bill.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 1, page 1, line 3, leave out “Parliament” and insert “the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the National Assembly for Wales”

Member’s explanatory statement
This would require the Secretary of State to report to the elected chambers across the UK with a responsibility for policies that can contribute to full employment.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

1 Clause 1, page 1, line 4, leave out from “and” to end of subsection and insert “for the purposes of this report “full employment” is defined as 80% of the working age population.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To specify that the purpose of reporting on progress toward full employment, full employment is defined as 80% of the working population.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

2 Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—
“(1A) In this report the Secretary of State must also set out the progress that has been made toward halving the disability employment gap.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the report on progress towards full employment to also report on progress towards the Government’s stated aim to halve the disability employment gap.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

23 Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—
“(1A) The Secretary of State will appear before a Committee in each of the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and the National Assembly for Wales to answer questions about the report.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This would require the Secretary of State to appear before a committee in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to answer questions about the full employment report.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

24 Clause 1, page 1, line 7, leave out subsection (2)

Member’s explanatory statement
This would remove the provision that repeals the full employment reporting obligation at the end of the current Parliament.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Stephen Timms  
Kate Green  
Chris Leslie

Clause 2, page 1, line 16, at end insert—  
“(aa) information about the uptake of apprenticeships broken down by region, age, ethnicity, disability, sector, qualification and level,  
(ab) a report by the UK Commission on Employment and Skills on the quality of apprenticeship being provided, and”

Member’s explanatory statement  
To specify additional information that must be included in the Secretary of State’s report progress towards meeting the apprenticeship target

Clause 3, page 2, line 46, at end insert—  
“(2A) The matters by which the progress made by a household that receives relevant support shall be measured under subsection (1)(b) include whether a member of the household is in employment.”

Member’s explanatory statement  
This requires one of the factors which is used to measure whether a household receive support is making progress is whether or not a member of the household is employed.

Clause 3, page 3, line 6, at end insert—  
“(4A) A report prepared under this section must include information about the number of households receiving support where a member of the household, who had not previously been in employment during the last 12 month, has entered employment.”

Member’s explanatory statement  
To require the report on support for troubled households to specify the number of households receiving support where a member of the household has become employed.

Clause 3, page 3, line 6, at end insert—  
“(4A) A report prepared under this section must include information about the total value of expenditure directed at supporting relevant households by—  
(a) local government,
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

(b) central government, and
(c) government agencies.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the report on support for troubled households to specify how much has been spent to support targeted households by different parts of government.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 5, page 5, leave out lines 16 to 27 and insert—

“5 Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission: additional functions
(1) After Section 8A of the Child Poverty Act 2010 insert—

Member’s explanatory statement
To leave the name of the “Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission” unchanged.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 5, page 6, leave out lines 15 and 16

Member’s explanatory statement
A consequential amendment to amendment 7 to leave the name of the “Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission” unchanged.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 6, page 6, line 18, leave out subsection 1

Member’s explanatory statement
Leave child poverty targets and measures unchanged.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 6, page 7, leave out from beginning of line 25 to end of Clause

Member’s explanatory statement
Leave child poverty targets and measures unchanged.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 8, line 32, leave out subsection (2)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would remove the changes to the benefit cap.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 7, page 8, line 36, at end insert—

“( ) Regulations under this section shall not be made in relation to persons—
(a) responsible for the care of a child aged below 2;
(b) responsible for the care of and in receipt of Carers Allowance in respect of, but not living with, a person in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment;
(c) in temporary accommodation following an incident or incidents of domestic violence.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To provide that the benefit cap does not apply to benefit claimants who will find it most difficult to enter work.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 8, line 38, leave out “£23,000 or £15,410” and insert “£26,000 or £18,200”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would keep the benefit cap level in London at the same rate as today.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 8, line 39, leave out “£20,000 or £13,400” and insert “£26,000 or £18,200”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would keep the benefit cap level outside London at the same rate as today.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 9, leave out paragraph (a)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would remove bereavement allowance from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 11, leave out paragraph (b)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would remove carer’s allowance from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 13, leave out paragraph (c)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would remove child benefit from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 15, leave out paragraph (d)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would remove child tax credit from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 21, leave out paragraph (f)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would remove guardian’s allowance from the benefit cap.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 33, leave out paragraph (k)

Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would remove maternity allowance from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 35, leave out paragraph (l)

Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would remove severe disablement allowance from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 38, leave out paragraph (n)

Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would remove widow’s pension from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 40, leave out paragraph (o)

Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would remove widowed mother’s allowance from the benefit cap.

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 42, leave out paragraph (p)

Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would remove widowed parent’s allowance from the benefit cap.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 44, leave out subsection (5)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential to amendment 25.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 8, page 10, line 22, leave out “in each Parliament” and insert “a year”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the Secretary of State to review the level of the benefit cap every year to determine whether it is appropriate to change the level of the cap.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 8, page 10, line 31, at end insert—

“(c) an annual report made by the Social Security Advisory Committee on the level of the benefit cap.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the Secretary of State to take into account an annual report by the Social Security Advisory Committee on the level of the benefit cap when undertaking his review of the benefit cap.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 8, page 10, line 31, at end insert—

“(3A) The report made by the Social Security Advisory Committee on the level of benefit cap, under subsection 3c, must include an assessment of the impact of the benefit cap on the Discretionary Housing Payments Funds administered by local authorities.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the Social Security Advisory Committee’s annual report on the level of the benefit cap to include an assessment of the impact of the benefit cap on Discretionary Housing Payments.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

Clause 9, page 11, line 32, leave out from “relevant sums” to end of subsection and insert “are to be reviewed by the Secretary of State having given regard to—

(a) the rate of inflation, and
(b) the national economic situation.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To subject the four year freeze in the social security payments set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to an annual review of the levels by the Secretary of State. This review will consider both the rate of inflation and the national economic situation.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

Clause 9, page 11, line 32, leave out from “relevant sums” to end of subsection and insert “is to increase in line with the consumer price index.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would see relevant benefits increasing in line with the consumer price index.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

Clause 9, page 11, line 35, leave out from “child benefit” to end of subsection and insert “are to be reviewed by the Secretary of State having given regard to—

(a) the rate of inflation, and
(b) the national economic situation.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To subject the four year freeze in child benefit to an annual review of the levels by the Secretary of State. This review will consider both the rate of inflation and the national economic situation.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

Clause 9, page 11, line 35, leave out from “child benefit” to end of subsection and insert “are to increase in line with the consumer price index.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would see child benefit increasing in line with the consumer price index.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 9, page 11, line 37, leave out subsections (3) and (4)
Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential to the amendments 39 and 40.

Stephen Timms
Kate Green
Chris Leslie

★ Clause 10, page 12, line 21, leave from “relevant amounts” to end of subsection and insert “are to be reviewed by the Secretary of State having given regard to—
(a) the rate of inflation, and
(b) the national economic situation.”
Member’s explanatory statement
To subject the four year freeze in the tax credits set out in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to an annual review of the levels by the Secretary of State. This review will consider both the rate of inflation and the national economic situation.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 10, page 12, line 21, leave out from “relevant amounts” to end of subsection and insert “is to increase in line with the consumer price index.”
Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would see tax credits increasing in line with the consumer price index.

Emily Thornberry

★ Page 12, line 32, leave out Clause 11
Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would see current arrangements for child tax credit remaining in place.
Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 11, page 12, line 39, leave out “2017” and insert “2022”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would see current arrangements for child tax credit remaining in place for children born before 6 April 2022.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 11, page 13, line 10, leave out “one other child” and insert “two other children”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain entitlement to child tax credit for families with three children.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 11, page 13, line 10, leave out “one other child” and insert “three other children”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain entitlement to child tax credit for families with four children.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 11, page 13, line 10, leave out “one other child” and insert “four other children”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain entitlement to child tax credit for families with five children.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 11, page 13, line 10, leave out “one other child” and insert “five other children”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would retain entitlement to child tax credit for families with six children.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Page 13, line 17, leave out Clause 12

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would remove changes to entitlement to the child element of universal credit.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 12, page 13, line 18, leave out subsections (1) to (4)

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would retain entitlement to the child element of universal credit for families with more than two children.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 12, page 13, line 22, leave out “two” and insert “three”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would retain entitlement to the child element of universal credit for families with three children.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 12, page 13, line 22, leave out “two” and insert “four”  
Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would retain entitlement to the child element of universal credit for families with four children.

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 12, page 13, line 22, leave out “two” and insert “five”  
Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would retain entitlement to the child element of universal credit for families with five children.

Angus Robertson  
Mike Weir  
Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black  
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 12, page 13, line 22, leave out “two” and insert “six”  
Member’s explanatory statement  
This amendment would retain entitlement to the child element of universal credit for families with six children.

Stephen Timms  
Kate Green  
Chris Leslie

☆ Clause 12, page 13, line 23, at end insert “unless this would result in an amount no longer being paid in respect of a child or young person who was born before 6 April 2017, in which case a payment shall still be made in respect of this child or young person.”  
Member’s explanatory statement  
To ensure that the reduction of the child element of Universal Credit to two children only affects children born after 6 April 2017.
Page 14, line 1, leave out Clause 13

Member’s explanatory statement
This prevents the changes to the work-related component of the employment and support allowance.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

Page 14, line 25, leave out Clause 14

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain the limited capability for work element of universal credit.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

Page 14, line 28, leave out Clause 15

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain the current conditionality requirements for work related activity / work focused interviews/ work preparation for those claimants with children under 5 in receipt of universal credit.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

Clause 15, page 14, line 31, leave out paragraph (a)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would keep the “work-focused interview requirement only” for responsible carers of children aged two and three.
Clause 15, page 14, line 31, leave out paragraphs (a) to (c) and insert—

“(a) in section 19(2)(c) for the words “under the age of 1” substitute “who has not yet started primary school”;

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment, taken together with amendment 63, would mean claimants in receipt of universal credit who are responsible carers are not subject to work focused interviews or work preparation requirements until their child starts school. From when a child starts school, relevant claimants would be required to follow all work requirements.

Clause 15, page 14, line 36, after “2,”, insert “3 or 4”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain the current position for responsible carers of children aged three and four.

Clause 15, page 14, line 37, leave out paragraph (c)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain the current position for responsible carers of children aged three and four.

Clause 15, page 14, line 40, leave out paragraph (a)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would keep the current prescribed age of three years in universal credit regulations on the “work-focused interview requirement” for responsible carers of children in receipt of universal credit.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 15, page 14, line 40, leave out paragraphs (a) and (b) and insert—

“(a) in regulation 91 (claimants subject to work-focused interview requirement only), for the word “3” substitute “5 or when the child starts primary school”;

(b) in regulation 91A (claimants subject to work preparation requirement) for the words “3 or 4” substitute “who has not yet started primary school”;

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment, taken together with amendment 62, would mean claimants in receipt of universal credit who are responsible carers are not subject to work focused interviews or work preparation requirements until their child starts school. From when a child starts school, relevant claimants would be required to follow all work requirements.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Clause 15, page 14, line 42, leave out paragraph (b)

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would keep the current age of child (which is three or four) in universal credit regulations on the work-preparation requirement for responsible carers of children in receipt of universal credit.

Angus Robertson
Mike Weir
Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Ian Blackford

★ Page 15, line 1, leave out Clause 16

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would mean those owner-occupiers who are in receipt of an income related benefit can continue to claim additional help towards their mortgage interest payments and mitigate risk of repossession of homes instead of introducing a loan system which will be secured against their property.
Clause 16, page 15, line 25, at end insert—

“(7A) The waiting period before a person can apply for a loan under this section shall be 13 weeks.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require that the waiting period before an application for a loan for mortgage interest can be made is 13 weeks.

Page 15, line 36, leave out Clause 17

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on amendment 64.

Clause 19, page 19, line 25, after subsection (9) insert—

“(9A) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of this section coming into force, produce a plan to offset the impact of lower social rents on housing associations.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the Secretary of State to produce a plan to offset the impact of lower social rents on housing associations, so that their ability to build new affordable homes is not affected.
“Report on impact of benefit cap reductions

(1) The Secretary of State must publish and lay before Parliament before the end of the financial year ending with 31 March 2017 a report on the impact of the benefit cap reductions introduced by this Bill.

(2) The report must include an assessment of the impact on each of the measures of child poverty defined in the Child Poverty Act 2010.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This new clause requires the Secretary of State to review impact of lower benefit cap after 12 months.

“Local Housing Allowance

(1) For each of the tax years ending with 5 April 2017, 5 April 2018, 5 April 2019 and 5 April 2020, the amount paid to claimants of the Local Housing Allowance is be reviewed by the Secretary of State.

(2) In reviewing these sums the Secretary of State shall have regard to—

(a) the rate of inflation,
(b) the national economic situation, and
(c) the levels of market rent.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This new clause requires the Secretary of State to review the level of the Local Housing Allowance annually, in light of the rate of inflation, levels of market rent and the national economic situation.
To move the following Clause—

**“Exemptions to changes in child tax credit and child element of universal credit”**

(1) The limit on the number of children for which child tax credit or the child element of universal credit can be claimed, as provided for clauses 11 and 12 of this Act, do not apply in the following circumstances—

(a) where the number of children exceeds two because the third (or subsequent) child was part of a multiple birth at the same time as the second qualifying child;

(b) where a third (or subsequent) child becomes a member of a household as a result of being fostered or adopted into that household;

(c) in exceptional circumstances as defined by the Social Security Advisory Committee, including but not limited to—

(i) the claimant becoming unemployed;

(ii) the death of one of the parents in the claimant household; and

(iii) one of the parents in the claimant household leaving the household following a breakdown in relationship.

(2) The Secretary of State shall, by regulation, establish an appeals process by which an individual can appeal a decision as to whether an exemption set out in this clause applies in their individual situation.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This New Clause exempts households from the limit on the number of children for whom child tax credit or the child element of universal credit can be claimed where the limit was exceeded as a result of; multiple births, a household fostering or adopting a child, or in exceptional circumstances defined by the Social Security Advisory Committee. It also requires the Secretary of State to establish an appeals mechanism for decisions made under this section.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading.

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill (including any proceedings on consideration of Lords Amendments or on any further messages from the Lords) may be programmed.