CONSIDERATION OF BILL (REPORT STAGE)

WELFARE REFORM AND WORK BILL, AS AMENDED

NOTE

This document includes all amendments tabled to date and includes any withdrawn amendments at the end. The amendments have been arranged in the order in which they relate to the Bill.

NEW CLAUSES

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds
Seema Malhotra
John McDonnell

To move the following Clause—

“Repeal of Tax Credits Regulations 2015

(1) The Tax Credits (Income Thresholds and Determination of Rates) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 are repealed.”

NC1
“Assessment of tax credit and benefit reforms on working families

The measures in this Bill shall not take effect until the Secretary of State has laid before both Houses of Parliament an assessment of the cumulative impact and an equalities impact of tax credit and benefit reforms announced in Summer Budget 2015 on working families.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This New Clause aims to enable claimants of DLA who are transferred to PIP due to terminal illness to receive their first PIP payment immediately after being transferred. Currently claimants must wait four weeks from their final DLA payment to be made and then another four weeks to receive their first PIP payment.

“Review of application of sanctions

(1) The Secretary of State must before the financial year ending 31 March 2016 provide for a full and independent review of the sanctions regimes attached to working-age benefits, including but not limited to Jobseekers Allowance,
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Employment Support Allowance and Income Support, to determine whether they are effective and proportionate for meeting the Government’s objectives.

(2) The terms of reference for the review must include consideration of—
   (a) the application of sanctions to lone parents with dependent children;
   (b) the application of sanctions to claimants who are disabled;
   (c) the effectiveness of sanctions in moving claimants into sustained work; and
   (d) any other matters which the Secretary of State considers relevant.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To provide for a full, independent review of the operation of the sanctions regimes attached to out of-work benefits, to determine the effectiveness of sanctions in moving claimants into sustained work as well as any adverse impacts on particular groups.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

★ To move the following Clause—

“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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

★ To move the following Clause—

“Job quality
(1) The Secretary of State must, in a report issued under section 1 of this Bill information about—
   (a) the job quality of new jobs created, as set out in [Definition of job quality] this Act;
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(b) the distribution of the quality of jobs by occupation, industry, sector and region; and

(c) the distribution of the quality of jobs by gender, race, disability and age.

(2) Within six months of section 1 of this Act coming into force, the Secretary of State must, by regulation, provide a definition of job quality.

(3) Before issuing regulations under this section the Secretary of State must carry out a public consultation.”

Member's explanatory statement
To require the Secretary of State to bring forward a definition of job quality and to ensure there is a consultation on defining job quality.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ To move the following Clause—

“Changes to the benefit cap
Changes to the Benefit Cap shall not be made until the Secretary of State has carried out an assessment of the impact on its effect on poverty and laid a report before the House of Commons, The Scottish Parliament, The Northern Ireland Assembly and the National Assembly for Wales.”

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ To move the following Clause—

“Tax credit reforms
The measures in this Bill and (Income Thresholds and Determination of Rates) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 relating to the award of tax credits and the relevant entitlement within Universal Credit shall not take effect until the Secretary of State has implemented a scheme for full transitional protection for a minimum of three years for all families and individuals currently receiving tax
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credits before 5 April 2016, such transitional protection to be renewable after three years with parliamentary approval.”

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

To move the following Clause—

“Universal credit and carers

Claimants in receipt of universal credit who are responsible carers for children are not subject to work focused interviews or work preparation requirements until their youngest child starts school.”

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

NC9

To move the following Clause—

“Changes to age of eligible claimants of housing benefit

The Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 is amended as follows.

After section 130(1) insert—

“(1A) The Secretary of State shall not make provision about eligibility for housing benefit in respect of the age of a claimant except by primary legislation.”.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This New Clause aims to ensure that any changes to the age of eligible claimants for housing benefit must be made by primary legislation rather than regulation. The Government intends to withdraw entitlement to housing benefit from 18-21 year olds and it is understood this change would be enacted by regulation.
“Entitlement to housing costs element of universal credit for 18-21 year olds

(1) Entitlement to the housing cost element of Universal Credit shall not be restricted for those 18 to 21 year olds who fall into the following categories—
(a) those who have previously been in work;
(b) a person who lives independently;
(c) those with a disability or mental health problem receiving Employment Support Allowance or Income Support;
(d) those with dependent children;
(e) pregnant women;
(f) those who are owed a rehousing duty under—
   (i) section 193 of the Housing Act 1996;
   (ii) section 9 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003;
   (iii) section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014;
(g) those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are being assisted by local authority housing teams;
(h) those who are living in statutory or voluntary sector homelessness accommodation;
(i) those who have formerly been homeless and have been supported by voluntary or statutory agencies into accommodation;
(j) those who have formerly been homeless between the ages of 16 and 21;
(k) a person without family or whom social services have found that a home environment is not suitable for them to live in; care leavers and
(l) those leaving custody.

(2) Within three months of section [Entitlement to housing costs element of universal credit for 18-21 year olds] of this Act coming into force, the Secretary of State must, by regulation, provide definitions of—
   “a person who lives independently”;
   “risk of homelessness” and
   “a person without family”.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To ensure that 18-21 year olds who meet one of the listed conditions are entitled to receive the housing cost elements of universal credit.
To move the following Clause—

“Review of application of sanctions

(1) The Secretary of State must on commencement of this bill, commence a full and independent review of the sanctions regimes attached to working-age benefits, including but not limited to Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Income Support, to measure the impact on—

(a) to lone parents with dependent children;
(b) claimants who are disabled;
(c) moving claimants into continuous work;
(d) homeless;
(e) protected characteristics;
(f) long term health conditions;
(g) claimants with mental health disorders and
(h) any other matters which the Secretary of State considers relevant.”

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.

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, after subsection (1) insert—

“(1A) The Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament annually on the progress which has been made towards reducing underemployment, and the
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report must set out how the Secretary of State has interpreted “underemployment” for these purposes.”

Mr David Burrowes

★ Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(1A) The Secretary of State must, in the report laid before parliament under Section (1) above, set out the progress which has been made towards halving the gap between the rates of employment of disabled and non-disabled people.

(1B) The Secretary of State must in this report include further information as to—

(a) the overall rates of employment and

(b) the progress of these rates of employment the groups of disabled people set out in subsection (1C) below.

(1C) These groups of disabled people are working age people with—

(a) a learning disability;

(b) autism;

(c) mental health problems;

(d) Regulations may set out other groups of disabled people which are currently marginalised within the labour force and require a specific focus.”

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens Dr Philippa Whitford

★ 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.
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Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ 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.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

☆ Clause 4, page 4, line 41, at end insert—
“(e) children living in low-income households.
(f) children living in material deprivation.”

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

☆ Clause 4, page 5, line 8, at end insert—
“(g) low income.
(h) material deprivation.”

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 5, page 6, line 1, leave out from “describe” to end of line 5.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment removes the duty on the Social Mobility Commission to describe in its annual report the measures taken by Scottish Ministers in accordance with Scottish strategies and by Welsh Ministers in accordance with Welsh strategies.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 5, page 6, line 18, leave out “the United Kingdom” and insert “England or Northern Ireland”.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment amends the power of UK Ministers to direct the Social Mobility Commission to
Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 6, line 23, leave out “10” and insert “11”.

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment repeals section 11 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 which, as currently amended by the Bill, imposes a duty on Scottish Ministers to produce triennial strategies on reducing socio-economic disadvantage and annual progress reports.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 6, line 24, at end insert—

“( ) In the italic heading before section 11, omit “Scottish Ministers and”.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment amends the italic heading currently before section 11 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 to reflect the fact that sections 12 and 13 will only include provisions relating to Northern Ireland strategies in consequence of amendments 4 and 7 to 12.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 6, line 25, leave out subsection (2).

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment is consequential on amendment 4 and removes the amendments that were originally included in clause 6 to the duty on Scottish Ministers to produce triennial strategies and annual progress reports.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 7, line 29, at end insert—

“( ) In section 13 (consultation: Scotland and Northern Ireland)—

(a) in subsection (3), omit “a Scottish strategy or”;
(b) in subsection (3), for “devolved administration”, wherever occurring, substitute “relevant Northern Ireland department”;
(c) omit subsection (3)(a);
(d) omit subsection (4);
(e) in the section heading, omit “Scotland and”.

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment is consequential on amendment 4 and amends section 13 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 so that the consultation requirements only apply in relation to the preparation of Northern Ireland strategies and not Scottish strategies, which will no longer be required.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 7, line 30, after “circumstances)” insert “(a)”.

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This is a technical amendment consequential on amendment 9 which adds new paragraph (b) to clause 6(4).
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Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 7, line 30, at end insert—
  “(b) for subsection (3) substitute—
  “(3) In preparing a Northern Ireland strategy, the relevant Northern Ireland department must have regard to—
  (a) the resources that are or may be available to the Northern Ireland departments, and
  (b) the effect of the implementation of the strategy on those resources.”.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on amendment 4 and amends section 16 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 so that the requirement to have regard to economic and financial circumstances applies only in relation to the preparation of Northern Ireland strategies and not Scottish strategies, which will no longer be required.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 7, line 37, leave out “Part 9 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 or”.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on amendment 4 and amends the definition of “child” to reflect the fact that it will only be relevant to the requirement of the relevant Northern Ireland department to consult on its strategies.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 8, line 1, leave out “in relation to Northern Ireland”.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on amendment 4 and amends the definition of “parental responsibility” to reflect the fact that this term will only be relevant to the requirement of the relevant Northern Ireland department to consult on its strategies.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 8, line 3, leave out from “1995” to end of line 6.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential on amendment 4 and amends the definition of “parental responsibility” to remove the definition in relation to Scotland. This reflects the fact that this term will only be relevant to the requirement of the relevant Northern Ireland department to consult on its strategies.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 8, line 7, at end insert—
  “( ) For the heading to Part 1 substitute “Strategies: Northern Ireland”.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment substitutes the heading for Part 1 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 to reflect the fact that this Part now only includes provisions relating to Northern Ireland strategies.
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Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 8, leave out lines 19 to 22.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment removes the definitions of “Scottish strategy” and “Welsh strategy” as these terms are no longer used in the Child Poverty Act 2010 due to amendments 2 and 4.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 8, line 31, after “(extent)” insert—

(a) omit subsection (2);
(b) in subsection (3), for “Section 12” substitute “Part 1”.

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment amends section 30 of the Child Poverty Act 2010, which sets out the extent of the provisions of the Child Poverty Act 2010, to reflect the changes made by amendments 2 to 13.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

☆ Clause 6, page 8, line 32, at end insert—

“( ) In Schedule 1 (Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission), in paragraph 1(1) (membership), omit paragraphs (b) and (c).

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment removes the role of Scottish and Welsh Ministers in each appointing a member of the reformed Social Mobility Commission.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens

Dr Philippa Whitford

☆ Clause 7, page 8, line 9, leave out subsection (2)

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

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens

Dr Philippa Whitford

☆ Clause 7, page 9, line 2, 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.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 3, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens Dr Philippa Whitford

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

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would remove bereavement allowance from the benefit cap.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 17, leave out paragraph (b)

Member’s explanatory statement

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

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 19, leave out paragraph (c)

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would remove child benefit from the benefit cap.
Clause 7, page 9, line 21, leave out paragraph (d)

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would remove child tax credit from the benefit cap.

Clause 7, page 9, line 27, leave out paragraph (f)

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would remove guardian’s allowance from the benefit cap.

Clause 7, page 9, line 39, leave out paragraph (k)

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would remove maternity allowance from the benefit cap.

Clause 7, page 9, line 41, leave out paragraph (l)

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would remove severe disablement allowance from the benefit cap.
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Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 44, leave out paragraph (n)

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

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 46, leave out paragraph (o)

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

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 9, line 48, leave out paragraph (p)

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

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 7, page 10, line 1, leave out subsection (5)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential to amendment 55.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

49  ★ Clause 9, page 12, line 2, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

50  ★ Clause 9, page 12, line 6, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

51  ★ Clause 9, page 12, line 8, leave out subsections (3) and (4)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential to NCs 11 and 12.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

52  ★ Clause 10, page 12, line 36, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford

Neil Gray

Ian Blackford

Corri Wilson

Natalie McGarry

Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens

Dr Philippa Whitford

53

★ Page 13, line 1, leave out Clause 11

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would see current arrangements for child tax credit remaining in place.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford

Neil Gray

Ian Blackford

Corri Wilson

Natalie McGarry

Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens

Dr Philippa Whitford

54

★ Clause 11, page 13, line 8, leave out “2017” and insert “2022”

Dr Eilidh Whiteford

Neil Gray

Ian Blackford

Corri Wilson

Natalie McGarry

Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens

Dr Philippa Whitford

55

★ Page 13, line 31, leave out Clause 12

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment would remove changes to entitlement to the child element of universal credit.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

Page 14, line 15, leave out Clause 13

Jeremy Lefroy
Stephen McPartland

★ Clause 13, page 14, line 26, at end insert—

“(3A) The Secretary of State may not lay an order under section 31 to bring the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) into force until he has laid before both Houses of Parliament a report giving his estimate of the impact of those provisions on persons who would otherwise be entitled to start claiming the work-related activity component of employment and support allowance.

(3B) No order bringing subsections (2) and (3) into force shall be made unless a draft of the order has been laid before and approved by a resolution of both Houses of Parliament”.

Mr David Burrowes

★ Clause 13, page 14, line 29, at end insert—

“(5A) The Secretary of State must make provision for additional personalised and specialist employment support in connection with the changes made by subsections (1) to (3).

(5B) The Secretary of State must issue guidance on the following—
(a) the forms of personalised and specialist employment support;
(b) the means by which a diverse market of suppliers for personalised and specialist employment support can be developed in local areas; and
(c) information for local authorities seeking to improve local disability employment rates.”

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

★ Page 14, line 39, leave out Clause 14
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Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

Page 14, line 39, leave out Clause 14

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

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

Page 15, line 1, leave out Clause 15

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

Page 15, line 1, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  Dr Philippa Whitford

Clause 15, page 15, line 3, 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.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

Clause 15, page 15, line 4, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

Clause 15, page 15, line 9, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause 15, page 15, line 10, leave out paragraph (c)

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would retain the current position for responsible carers of children aged three and four.
Consideration of Bill (Report Stage): 22 October 2015

**Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued**

Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Neil Gray  
Ian Blackford  
Corri Wilson  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause **15**, page **15**, line **13**, 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.*

Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Neil Gray  
Ian Blackford  
Corri Wilson  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause **15**, page **15**, line **13**, 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.*

Dr Eilidh Whiteford  
Neil Gray  
Ian Blackford  
Corri Wilson  
Natalie McGarry  
Mhairi Black

Chris Stephens  
Dr Philippa Whitford

★ Clause **15**, page **15**, line **15**, 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.*
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

Page 15, line 18, 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.

Dr Eilidh Whiteford
Neil Gray
Ian Blackford
Corri Wilson
Natalie McGarry
Mhairi Black
Chris Stephens
Dr Philippa Whitford

Page 16, line 7, leave out Clause 17

*Member’s explanatory statement*

This amendment is consequential on amendment 64.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

Clause 17, page 16, line 13, at end insert—

“(4) The regulations must make provision for persons applying for a loan to have access to financial advice, which must be provided free of charge by an organisation independent of the qualifying lender.”

*Member’s explanatory statement*

To require that those applying for a loan must have access to free and impartial financial advice which is independent of the lender to whom the application is made.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

Clause 17, page 16, line 29, at end insert—

“(3A) The regulations must provide for persons in receipt of Support for Mortgage interest at the time the regulations come into force to continue to receive these
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

payments for a period of no less than 12 months before they are required to apply for a loan.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require that regulations setting out transitional protections for existing claimants of Support for Mortgage Interest must include provisions requiring payments to continue to be made on the basis of the current framework for at least 12 months following the date on which the regulations come into force, before they are expected to apply for a loan.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

☆ Clause 18, page 18, line 5, leave out “repealed.” and insert “amended as follows—
(a) insert at the end of subsection 1—
“(1AA) In addition to the conditions set out in subsection 1 a “relevant beneficiary” must be an individual in receipt of pension credit (see section 1 of the State Pension Credit Act 2002).””

Member’s explanatory statement
To maintain Support for Mortgage Interest as a benefit for anyone in receipt of State Pension Credit and replace it with a loan only for those in receipt of income-based benefits for people of working age.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

☆ Clause 18, page 18, line 6, leave out subsections (2) and (3)
Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is consequential to amendment 22.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

★ Clause 21, page 21, line 12, at end insert—
“(7A) 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 and local government.”

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.
Welfare Reform and Work Bill, continued

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

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Clause 21, page 21, line 12, at end insert—
“(7A) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of this section coming into force, produce a report outlining the impact of the reduction in social housing rents on the availability of accessible and supported housing.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To require the Secretary of State to report on the impact of lower social rents on the availability of accessible and supported housing.

Owen Smith
Emily Thornberry
Debbie Abrahams
Nick Thomas-Symonds

28

Clause 21, page 21, line 21, at end insert—
“(c) the accommodation is specified accommodation, as defined in the Housing Benefit and Universal Credit (Supported Accommodation) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.”

Member’s explanatory statement
To provide that the mandatory 1% annual reduction in social housing rents will not apply to the tenants of “specified accommodation”.

Secretary Iain Duncan Smith

1

Schedule 2, page 30, line 17, leave out “in which the tenancy begins” and insert “falling after the beginning of the tenancy”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment makes clear that, where a tenancy begins after part of a relevant year has elapsed, the part of the year in question is the part after the tenancy begins.

ORDER OF THE HOUSE [20 JULY 2015]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Welfare Reform and Work Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Tuesday 20 October.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

Consideration and Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration shall (so far as not previously concluded) be
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brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which those proceedings are commenced.

5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.

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.