Universal Credit: managed migration pilot

The Department’s managed migration pilot is due to begin next month. However, the Regulations have still not been brought forward for approval by the House.

I am aware we are in separate correspondence about the possibility of splitting the Regulations to separate the SDP conditions from the powers to run the pilot. Might you nevertheless please confirm:

1. If the Department is still planning to begin the managed migration pilot in July this year;

2. When you expect the managed migration pilot regulations to be debated on the floor of the House; and

3. If the Department has made contingency plans for the rollout of managed migration if the pilot is delayed?

The Committee is grateful for the letter from Neil Couling on 11 June outlining progress on the pilot. Might you also please update the Committee on:

4. How the Department intends to monitor whether Help to Claim has the resources it requires;

5. How Discretionary Housing Payments will be used during the pilot, and what criteria will be applied; and
6. If DHPs will be used replicate run-ons of legacy benefits in any or all cases as the Department indicated in its response to our report on managed migration?¹

Finally, the pilot will evidently be a crucial stage in the rollout of Universal Credit. Might you therefore please indicate:

7. What information Ministers will be receiving from the pilot whilst it is running;

8. How frequently Ministers will be updated on progress; and

9. When the Government will respond to the recommendations in our report, Tests for managed migration?

With best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair