Questions

The Code of Practice on Access to Government Information means we would have to make available individual responses if we are asked to.

The closing date for completing this questionnaire is 24th October 2017.

You and Your Organisation

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Please tell us which of the following best describes you as a respondent:

Academic	
Business representative organisation/trade body	
Central Government	
Charity or social enterprise	X
Individual	
Legal representative	
Local Government	
Large business (over 250 staff)	
Medium business (50 to 250 staff)	
Small business (10 to 49 staff)	
Micro business (up to 9 staff)	

Other, please describe:

_____

Universal Credit Experimental Statistics

Your use of Universal Credit Experimental Statistics

To help us understand your needs, please tell us a bit about what you use Universal Credit Official Statistics for, including any decisions the statistics will inform and questions you are looking to answer.

> Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness agencies and the wider housing with health, care and support sector in England. With around 800 members, we work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness and ensure that everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.
>
> An adequate safety net for those not yet able to work is essential to prevent people falling into crisis. Data on the operation and effectiveness of Universal Credit is critical to evidence where the system increasing or relieving homelessness. Specific questions have been indicated in response to the following questions.

Question 1

What additional information would be useful to include in the monthly publication providing information about **People on Universal Credit**?

(1 – Essential, and top priority, 2 – Highly desirable 3 – Might be useful, but a lower priority)

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Further breakdowns by duration on Universal Credit, to include a 6-12m category, and a 12m+ category	3	
Health condition	3	
An indicator, or indicators, of vulnerability (eg homelessness)	1	There are many issues relating to Universal Credit that are causing homelessness and preventing people from moving on from homelessness. Having an indicator for homelessness would allow for statistics to be disaggregated and their effect on homeless people analysed. In particular, it would allow for monitoring of the following questions which are currently only analysed through individual spot research by the Department. This mode of research does not allow for public scrutiny or for the setting of particular research questions: • What proportion of people who are sanctioned

		are homeless? • What proportion of people waiting over 6 weeks for delay are homeless? An indicator would also allow analysis of which parts of Universal Credit are being accessed by people experiencing homelessness, to measure for any discrepancies. In particular, it would allow for analysis of the following, which are all areas where anecdotal evidence highlights that issues are occurring: • Number of homeless people being offered Advance Payments • Number of homeless people being offered Alternative Payment Arrangements • Number of homeless people offered a conditionality easement • Number of homeless people offered Hardship payments. Analysis of these areas would allow operational improvements to be undertaken, for example increased advertising of parts of the system which to date have not been effectively communicated. A further benefit would be that internal processes within Jobcentre Plus would improve to ensure that people are identified as homelessness for the purposes of statistics. This will increase the effectiveness of exemption policies which are built into the Universal Credit system, but which to date have not been used consistently across England.
Ethnicity	3	
Flow of claimants between conditionality groups	3	
Other…		

Question 2

What additional information would be useful to include in the monthly publication providing information about **Starts to Universal Credit**?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Breakdowns by Local Authority	1	This information would allow for further research and awareness raising to be conducted in particular areas where statistics highlight that very few homeless people are accessing parts of Universal Credit (e.g. Advance Payments)
Other…		

Question 3

What additional information would be useful to include in the six-monthly publication providing information about **Households on Universal Credit**?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Number of children	3	
Number of child elements the household is entitled to	3	
Households whose income includes earnings	3	
Tenure Type	3	
Average eligible rent level / Value of housing cost element	3	
Households affected by the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy	3	
Number of spare rooms for those households affected by the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy	3	
Average spare room reduction amount for those households affected by the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy	3	
Alternative Payment Arrangements - Payment to landlords	1	Accessing Alternative Payment Arrangements will be critical for people experiencing homelessness. It is important, therefore, that accessibility of this arrangement is analysed so that its effectiveness can be improved where required.
Alternative Payment Arrangements – Split Payments	1	Accessing Alternative Payment Arrangements will be critical for people experiencing homelessness. It is important, therefore, that accessibility of this arrangement is analysed so that its effectiveness can be improved where required.
Households with a payment deduction, due to a sanction	1	Our evidence highlights that people experiencing homelessness are disproportionately sanctioned. Department for Work and Pensions have introduced regulations to improve on this system; producing statistics will support that commitment.
Average payment deduction amount due to a sanction	3	
Households with a payment reduction, due to recovery of rent arrears	3	
Average payment reduction, due to recovery of rent arrears	3	
Other…		

Question 4

What additional information would be useful to include in the quarterly publication on **Benefit Cap Statistics**?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Number of households on Universal Credit that are capped (point-in-time caseload)		
Total number of households on Universal Credit that have been capped (cumulative caseload)		
Number of households on Universal Credit that have been capped but are no longer capped (off-flows)		
Breakdown of off-flow outcomes to include category for households on Universal Credit working enough so the benefit cap no longer applies		
Breakdown of off-flow outcomes to include category for households on Universal Credit who become exempt from the cap because of the Universal Credit elements to which they are entitled		
Breakdown by region and Local Authority		
Family type		
Number of children		
Age of youngest child		
Amount of Universal Credit capped		
Combined number of households that have had their Housing Benefit or Universal Credit capped		
Other…		

Question 5

We intend to develop statistics on Work Capability Assessments (WCAs) for UC claimants. Which of these areas would be most useful to prioritise for inclusion in the quarterly publication on **Outcomes of Work Capability Assessments (WCA)**?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments (volumes and outcomes) over time		
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments (volumes and outcomes) by low level geography		
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments (volumes and outcomes) by condition		
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments (volumes and outcomes) by initial or repeat assessment		
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments (volumes and outcomes) by new claim or migrated from ESA status.		
Reason for assignment to Limited Capability for Work or Limited Capability for Work Related Activity		
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments Mandatory Reconsideration numbers and outcomes		
Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments appeal outcomes		
Customer journey times through the Universal Credit Work Capability Assessment process		
Other…		

Question 6

What additional information would be useful to include in the quarterly publication on **Benefit sanctions statistics**?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Include information about sanctions for people on Universal Credit full service when information corresponding to that published for Universal Credit live service is available	1	Our evidence highlights that people experiencing homelessness are disproportionately sanctioned. Department for Work and Pensions have introduced regulations to improve on this system; producing statistics will support that commitment.
Other…		

Question 7a

What additional information would be useful to include in the annual publication about **Children in out-of-work benefit households**?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?
Include further breakdowns of conditionality groups of Universal Credit claims in payment		
Include the number of adults in the Universal Credit Households which are searching for work and Universal Credit is in payment		
Include different age breakdowns for children		
Other…		

Question 7b

We are currently defining an out-of-work benefit household on Universal Credit as:

> "Households where all claimants are in the working with requirements, planning for work, preparing for work or searching for work [conditionality regimes](#)."

Do you have any thoughts or comments on this definition?

NA

Question 8

Are there any **other Universal Credit statistics** you would like to see produced on a regular basis which don't tie in with DWP's regular statistical outputs, listed above?

Type of information	Ranking 1, 2 or 3	Why would you find this useful?

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views. We do not intend to acknowledge receipt of individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply | x |

We carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, do you agree to us contacting you again from time to time, either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes | X | No | |

Please send us your responses in an email (stephanie.sarwar@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or in the post, to:

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