

## **Universal Credit and Rent Increase on 28 March 2020**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed that there is still no facility for Landlord's to "Bulk Upload" the new Rent Increase amounts for Tenants claiming Universal Credit (UC).

**Therefore all our tenants claiming Universal Credit will have to update their Universal Credit Account with the new Rent Increase amounts.**

DWP also state that all changes need to be made once they have happened (i.e. after the rent has changed on 28 March 2020).

Every UC claimant will receive a notification at the beginning of April, via their to-do list, reminding them to report any change to rent.

What this means is:

- Claimants will be sent an action called a "To-Do" via their UC account.
- The To-do will be titled "Update your Housing Costs".
- This will ask for responses to a number of questions to establish whether the rent or service charge liability has changed
- Depending on the claimant's response to this, they will then be prompted to declare and confirm their new housing costs.

**The claimant will be required to provide a full breakdown of the housing costs, including any service charges.**

If you receive Universal Credit you will need to report your Rent Increase like this

**"From the 28 March 2020 my new rent charge will be (example £295.05) and my new eligible service charge will be (example £12.95), charged monthly.**

Please report this change to Universal credit on, or as soon after, the 28 March 2020. You should receive a "To DO" prompt first.

If you don't receive a prompt add a journal entry with the above statement; and seek advice from our Welfare Rights Service, or Renfrewshire CAB, or Advice Works at Renfrewshire Council.

Housing Associations, Councils, and other Landlords continue to push for a facility for "Bulk Update" of Rents Increases. However, until further notice, **Universal Credit Claimants continue to be responsible for informing Universal Credit of any changes to their housing costs.**