



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

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For the attention of:  
Chief Executives,  
GB Local Authorities

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## **Universal Credit national expansion – Tranche Three and Four rollout locations**

Dear Colleagues,

I would first like to start by thanking you and your colleagues for the time and effort you have provided in working with the Department over the scheduling of the national expansion for Universal Credit for new single claimants who would otherwise be eligible for Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) including those with existing Housing Benefit and Tax Credit claims.

Following feedback from the Local Authority Partnership forum that it would help local planning, I am writing to inform you that today, we have placed a complete list, based on the latest planning assumptions, of Tranche Three and Four local authorities and Jobcentre areas onto GOV.UK, alongside lists of Tranches One and Two. All four Tranches of national expansion can be accessed here and are attached as an annex to this letter:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-national-expansion>

The introduction of Universal Credit is the biggest welfare reform change in a generation and we are already seeing the positive effects that Universal Credit is having.

We are publishing research today from the first 6000 Universal Credit cases that show, compared to JSA, claimants are doing more jobsearch activity, finding work quicker, staying in work longer and earning more. It is early days for the reform but this is very encouraging and is why we are keen to roll out the service to everywhere in Great Britain as soon as possible. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-at-work>

For national expansion in 2015/16, the Department is putting in place funded arrangements between Jobcentre Plus and local authorities to make available support for those needing extra help.

These interim arrangements will apply for national expansion only. For later roll out of Universal Credit – when we expect to include all claimant groups, including those in more vulnerable and complex situations – we will be developing arrangements under the Universal Support – delivered locally framework. We are now trialling key aspects of Universal Support in partnership with local authorities, to inform the shape of future delivery.

Today also marks the beginning of national rollout, a milestone in the growth of Universal Credit. There is, of course, still more to do as we expand to more people across Great Britain. Your help, support and dedication to partnership working will help to achieve this.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Couling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Couling  
Director General, Universal Credit Programme

**Annex A – Tranche One and Two**

**Annex B – Tranche Three and Four**