**[Insert your address]**

**[Insert date]**

Dear **[Insert MP’s name]**

**Fixing Universal Credit**

I am writing to you as a member of your constituency to ask you to raise my concerns about the rollout of Universal credit in **[Insert constituency]** with the government.

I support Universal Credit’s aim to simplify the benefit system. However, it is forcing people into debt and leaving them unable to make ends meet. For example, people I know are waiting more than 6 weeks to receive any income.

The Government needs to pause the roll-out of Universal Credit and fix 3 significant problems:

1. People are waiting up to 12 weeks for their first payment without any income.
2. Universal Credit is too complicated and people are struggling to use it.
3. People aren’t getting help when the system fails them.

Universal Credit is being introduced across the UK in stages. It replaces [6 means-tested benefits](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/before-you-apply/benefits-being-replaced-by-universal-credit/), including Tax Credits, Employment and Support Allowance and Housing Benefit. By 2022, 7 million families will receive Universal Credit and over half of those will be in work.

Universal Credit will begin fully rolling out in Manchester in October 2017. So far the Government has taken a gradual ‘test and learn’ approach to the roll-out of Universal Credit. During this time, Citizens Advice has worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to share their client's experience of the roll-out, and have achieved small improvements. However, the 3 significant problems above have not been addressed.

The Government plans to dramatically speed up the roll-out in October 2017, leaving hundreds of thousands more people facing serious financial risk.

I’d be very grateful if you could raise my concerns with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and ask him to pause the roll-out of Universal Credit and work with Citizens Advice to solve these problems.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

**[Your Name]**