



Scotland's Tenants' Union

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Date: _____

The Living Rent Universal Credit Evictions Charter

We, the undersigned, believe that the Universal Credit (UC) benefits system continues to have a disproportionately harmful effect on tenants in social rented sectors.

UC's five-week waiting period before receiving a first payment, as well as the regime of benefit sanctions and administrative errors have forced social housing tenants who rely on the benefit system into arrears and poverty.

Last year, research from four UK Housing Association Federations showed that in Scotland, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of tenants claiming UC are in arrears, compared with less than a third (32 percent) of all other tenants¹. In a recent survey, Unite the Union found 69 percent of UC claimants had skipped meals and 42 percent had been forced to use food banks as a result of claiming Universal Credit². We believe that social housing tenants are having their human right to housing threatened by a benefits system that is not fit for purpose.

We acknowledge that the implementation of Universal Credit has had a detrimental effect on the housing benefit received by Housing Associations and has harmed relations between social housing tenants and providers. We believe that UC's design should not result in an increase of evictions of renters.

We, as tenants, registered social landlords and housing organisations are united in standing against evictions arising from the design of Universal Credit. **Furthermore, the undersigned registered social landlords hereby agree to abstain from carrying out evictions due to arrears that arise from the design of Universal Credit.**

Signed on behalf of

¹ Scottish Housing News, June 2018.

<https://www.scottishhousingnews.com/article/uk-housing-bodies-warn-flawed-universal-credit-is-causing-debt-and-hardship-for-families-in-social-housing>

² Unite the union, September 2019, Universal Credit - Not Fit For Purpose - Unite Report