

Impact of Universal Credit on Housing Benefit

Andrew Wilson



12 December 2018



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

“The Awkward Month”

12 December 2018 - circa 11 January 2019



Drop in number of new claims for Housing Benefit (RBKC)

Month	No. of new HB claims
Oct 2018	276
Nov 2018	205
Dec 2018	162
Jan 2019	166
Feb 2019 (to 14/2/19)	76



Housing Benefit claims cancelled due to Universal Credit (RBKC)

Month	Number
Oct 2018	20
Nov 2018	11
Dec 2018	25
Jan 2019	67



Guarding the “Gateway”

- Staff training at Customer Service Centre
- Warnings on the on-line claim
- Monitoring work “queues”
- Council staff at North Kensington Jobcentre

- People are sometimes reluctant to accept that they have to claim Universal Credit



The people who can still claim Housing Benefit

- Pension Age
- Supported accommodation
- Temporary Accommodation
- Severe Disability Premium

- [3+ children exception ended 31/1/19]



Severe Disability Premium – more detail

Restriction on claims for universal credit by persons entitled to a severe disability premium

4A. No claim may be made for universal credit on or after 16th January 2019 by a single claimant who, or joint claimants either of whom—

(a) is, or has been within the past month, **entitled to an award of an existing benefit that includes a severe disability premium**; and

(b) in a case where the award ended during that month, has continued to satisfy the conditions for eligibility for a severe disability premium.”



Council Tax Reduction and Universal Credit

- The fluctuating nature of Universal Credit means that people may get several Council Tax bills throughout the year.

