



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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*Mark Amyas*

Thank you for your letter dated 06 November responding to the issues I had raised in previous correspondence. I was grateful for your time recently and very pleased to have discussed the workings of Real Time Information (RTI) with you.

Might I raise a few additional concerns I had on the RTI initiative please? I note from your letter that 6% of employees enrolled on the pilot were from small businesses, yet employees from small businesses account for 47% of the total private sector workforce. Conversely, the 88% of employees enrolled on the pilot from large businesses is more than double the proportion of employees in the total private sector workforce, which stands at 41%. Though I acknowledge your point about small businesses not wanting to sign up to any additional reporting requirements unless they are mandated to do so, the RTI pilot appears to have been completely unrepresentative of the private sector workforce. I am therefore concerned as to whether the findings of the pilot hold much validity for assessing the workings of Universal Credit to date as well as guiding future policy development.

Might I also ask you to clarify one or two issues around the data you kindly sent to me please? I note that the number of 'employer' schemes registered in March 2013 was 66,240 yet HMRC was expecting approximately 1.9 million employer schemes to have registered in total by October 2013. Your note also suggests that approximately 1.4 million 'employment' schemes had been registered by the end of May 2013. Would it therefore be possible to know whether there is any difference between 'employer' and 'employment' schemes and, if not, what predicated such an incredible surge from 66,240 schemes to 1.4 million within the space of two months? Are these employers actually filing through the RTI system or merely 'registering' at this stage?

I would also be grateful to know how many of these employers are taking up the option of a temporary relaxation period until April 2014, and thus not actually having to alter any of their current practices.



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Has an estimate been made as to how the employers taking advantage of this temporary relaxation period will be any better placed to comply than they were this year, if and when the option is terminated in April 2014?

Might it also be possible to know how the workings of the temporary relaxation period might interact with the findings of the pilot schemes, and how great the potential may be for problems of over- and under-reporting to arise?

Thank you very much again for the help you are providing me with in trying to understand the operational difficulties the Universal Credit programme is facing.

With best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hi' followed by a stylized name or initials.