

Universal Credit Scottish Choices

Q. What are Universal Credit Scottish Choices?

Universal Credit is an entirely reserved benefit and all aspects of its policy are determined by the UK Government.

The Scottish Government, however, has some limited powers over changing how UC is paid in Scotland. We are using these to make the delivery of UC better suited to the needs of those who claim it through the UC Scottish choices.

Since 4 October 2017, people in Scotland have been given the choice to receive their UC award either monthly or twice monthly and have their housing costs paid directly to their landlord. Over the period 11 November 2017 to end August 2018, 66,700 people had been offered the UC Scottish choices, and around 32,000 people (almost 50%) took up one or both of the choices.

The Scottish Government is also committed to splitting payments of UC between members of a couple in a household to ensure that everyone has access to an independent income based on their individual circumstances and to promote equality in the welfare system. As UC is reserved to the UK Government, it is not solely for the Scottish Government to decide what can be delivered and when, and we are strongly dependent on what is technically feasible within the DWP's IT systems.

We are currently discussing our proposed policy options for split payments with the DWP.

For further information on Universal Credit Scottish Choices go to:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/universal-credit/>