

Universal Credit – DEL (implementation and administrative) costs

The last National Audit Office (NAO) report into the Universal Programme was published in November 2014. No detailed information on UC implementation costs have been published or made available since this time, with a new NAO report scheduled for Spring 2018.

In the 2014, DWP estimated that the roll-out of UC will be a *net* DEL cost to the UK government of £149 million between 2014-15 and 2023-24. Of this net cost, 81% will be IT supplier costs. This is the net cost after taking into account the savings to government in the delivery of legacy benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit. This compares to a *total* DEL cost of between £1.1 billion and £1.4 billion over the period 2014-15 and 2023-24.

Due to various changes in the timetable for implementing Universal Credit since these estimates were produced, these figures should be treated with caution.

In their report, the NAO conclude that:

"In principle, the Department's approach should allow it to learn from experience, improve the design and readiness of services and reduce risks. However, in our view the Programme is at too early a stage to determine if the Department will achieve value for money in its implementation of Universal Credit."

According to evidence submitted to the Public Accounts Committee in 2015-16, the expected date for HM Treasury approval of the full business case for Universal Credit was September 2017, with later information published by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority pushing this back to 'Autumn' 2017. At this time, it is unclear whether the business case has been signed off.

The latest report by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (2017) estimated that the total budgeted whole life cost of Universal Credit was £15.5 billion.

References

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, "[Universal Credit: progress update](#)", Nineteenth Report of Session 2015–16

National Audit Office (November 2014), "[Universal Credit: progress update](#)", HC 786 SESSION 2014-15.

Infrastructure and Projects Authority (July 2017) "[Annual Report on Major Projects 2016 to 2017](#)"

From: Campbell J (Jeanette);
Sent: 27 October 2017 14:02
To: Minister for Social Security
Subject: Emailing: Physical punishment of children_ countries which have banned (2)

Physical punishment of children_ countries which have banned (2)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WHICH HAVE PROHIBITED PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT, BY DATE OF PROHIBITION

- 2017 – Lithuania, Aruba [Dutch island in the Caribbean]
- 2016 - Mongolia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Slovenia
- 2015 - Benin, Ireland, Peru
- 2014 - Andorra, Estonia, Nicaragua, San Marino, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Malta
- 2013 - Cabo Verde, Honduras, TFYR Macedonia
- 2011 - South Sudan
- 2010 - Albania, Congo (Republic of), Kenya, Tunisia, Poland
- 2008 - Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Costa Rica
- 2007 - Togo, Spain, Venezuela, Uruguay, Portugal, New Zealand, Netherlands
- 2006 - Greece
- 2005 - Hungary
- 2004 - Romania, Ukraine
- 2003 - Iceland
- 2002 - Turkmenistan
- 2000 - Germany, Israel, Bulgaria
- 1999 - Croatia

1998 - Latvia

1997 - Denmark

1994 - Cyprus

1989 - Austria

1987 - Norway

1983 – Finland

The above list is taken from a website which has a strong view against physical punishment but is reliable when it comes to factual information (we have been using it for the past couple of years).

The legislation in different countries takes a variety of forms. In some cases, provision is made in Civil Codes or provision is made when outlining the extent of parental authority over children.

New Zealand and Ireland removed a defence for parents, as Mr Finnie's proposed Bill is likely to do for Scotland.

Source: Global Initiative to end all Corporal Punishment of Children: <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/progress/prohibiting-states/> (list generally) and <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/news/10/2017/aruba-has-prohibited-all-corporal-punishment-of-children.html> (Aruba).

From: Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)
Sent: 1 November 2017 12:35
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette);
Subject: Question Time - additional briefings

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks

Ross

Question Time briefing

Venue: The Grand Hall, Palace Theatre Complex, 9 Green Street, Kilmarnock KA1 3BN

Approx. Call Time: 1910hrs - allowing time for make-up, prep and introduction to panellists etc

Recording Time: 2030-2130hrs

Post-show hospitality: From 2140 - venue TBC

Other panellists:

- Kezia Dugdale
- Owen Jones
- Daniel Hannan MEP
- Brian Souter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Quotes

Daniel Hannan MEP

- Conservative MEP for South East England since 1999
- Longstanding and prominent Brexiteer
- Secretary-General of the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists

Used to say that we could stay in the single market

"To repeat, no-one is prejudicing the cross-channel trade. *Norway, Switzerland, all of these countries have complete free trade with the EU*, and by the way I can't help noticing that they're doing pretty well. They're also *growing extremely well...*"

"...But to repeat, *absolutely nobody is talking about threatening our place in the single market.*"

- Daniel Hannan, interview with [Channel 4 News, May 12, 2015](#)

Not supportive of Catalan independence but doesn't support Spain's actions

"The two sides are now talking past each other....I believe in the right of self-determination, and regard the century-long movement toward more numerous, smaller and more democratic states as a positive development. At the same time, I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Hispanophile. Although I think Catalans have the right to form a new nation, I also think it would be a pity if they felt driven to exercise that right. I had hoped that Madrid would agree to a legal referendum years ago, which would almost certainly have gone against independence. Failing that, it should have ignored rather than disrupted the unofficial ballot" [Conservative Home 26th October]

Brian Souter

- Founder (with his sister Ann Gloag) of Stagecoach in 1980
- His support for an unofficial ballot on Section 28 could be brought up in the context of Catalonia.

- Received a knighthood in 2011 for his services to charity (criticised by Labour and LGBT groups). Labour said there was a connection between the SG nomination for this and his SNP donations. Alex Salmond referred himself for investigation, and was “wholly exonerated” by Lord Fraser of Carmyllie of any wrongdoing (SG nominations were made by officials with no ministerial role).
- Recently announced that he and Gloag were dividing their fortune and “pursuing very different investment strategies.”

Has denied being a Brexiteer – but said that the damage is being overestimated

“I am not so negative on Brexit as others seem to be. There will be some challenges, but our currency has adjusted...I just think we are over-estimating the damage. Provided we get a settlement for our financial services sector we could be in a positive place” [Scotsman 2nd November 2016]

Kezia Dugdale

Claimed “there’s a Harvey Weinstein in every work place”

“There’s a Harvey Weinstein in every work place. Whether that’s a supermarket, a factory floor, an office block or a National Parliament, there’s always one and often many more. We all know who they are.” [Daily Record 17th October]

Was unequivocal in her support for single market

On 7th September 2016 Kezia Dugdale tweeted the following exchange with the First Minister indicating ‘absolute commitment’ to the single market:

Kezia Dugdale @kezdugdale 7 September 2016

@scottishlabour absolutely committed to EU and single market and supportive of SNP efforts to retain both

Kezia Dugdale Retweeted Nicola Sturgeon

Nicola Sturgeon @NicolaSturgeon 7 September 2016

What? Labour surely not advocating withdrawal from single market? Assume this is not @kezdugdale position?

Nicola Sturgeon Retweeted Jason Groves

Jason Groves @JasonGroves1 7 September 2016

Corbyn aide says Labour don't want to stay in 'damaging' EU single market - just wants 'full access' for British goods + services

Kezia Dugdale @kezdugdale 7 September 2016

@NicolaSturgeon @JasonGroves1 Just sent you a very clear statement of support and clarity on this issue

Owen Jones

Supports Catalonia's right to self-determination – but not Scottish independence

Jones published a column in the Guardian (11th October) "I hope Catalonia stays with Spain, but I support its right to leave"

"I have little truck with pro-independence movements unless a nation is oppressed, like those subjugated by Europe's former great powers – and Catalonia is not. Supporting Catalonia's right to divorce does not mean endorsing it. But when democracy comes under attack anywhere, it is our collective responsibility to show solidarity."

Has recently made bizarre – and inaccurate - attacks on Twitter linking Brian Souter to rail franchising

Owen Jones tweeted this [now deleted but on WayBack Machine]

Owen Jones @OwenJones84 2 Oct 2017

Sorry, SNP, Brian Souter's assets are going to be nationalised so you're going to have find some other revenues. Gutting, I know.

And also this:

Owen Jones @OwenJones84 2 Oct 2017

How quickly should anti-LGBTQ rail tycoon and SNP donor Brian Souter's assets be nationalised by a Labour Government?

- 63% Within 24 hours
- 13% Leave it a week
- 08% Definitely within a month
- 16% Give the homophobe a year

Vote 2,663 votes • Final results

Humza's response:

"This is, as Richard Leonard would call it, pish. Scot Lab blocked full railway powers (including nationalisation) coming to Scotland via the Smith Commission. As a minister (I have) only spoken to Brian Souter once to see if he could help Syrian refugees arriving in Lesbos - he was very willing to help."

Has criticised the UK Government's homosexual offences amendments for not going far enough

"Pardons imply an act of forgiveness for wrongdoing, not absolving the innocent of unjust guilt. Crimes and wrongdoing were committed not by men damned for who they were attracted to and who they loved, but by the state. If forgiveness is to be considered, it is the persecutors – not the persecuted – who should be begging for it." [Guardian 1st February 2017]

