



KEEP THE LIFELINE
 Join us in trying to stop the largest ever overnight cut to social security.
#KeepTheLifeline



What is happening?

More than a million people across the country say they are very likely to be forced to turn to food banks if the UK government goes ahead with plans to cut [Universal Credit payments](#) by **£20 a week** this October.

Universal Credit payments can be an absolute lifeline for people who don't have enough money to live on. The proposed change will be the biggest cut to social security since World War Two* – for some families, it will mean suddenly losing up to **a fifth of their income**.

	Current UC rate (per month)	Planned UC rate from October (per month)
Single claimant aged under 25	£344.00	£257.34
Single claimant aged 25 or over	£411.51	£324.85

Shouldn't we be focusing on getting people into work?

Universal Credit is a social security payment for people who don't have enough money for the essentials, often because they are in low-paid work or can't work because of a health issue or caring responsibilities.

Around 4 in 10 people receiving Universal Credit are in work. In fact, as the cut affects Working Tax Credit as well, **the majority of people affected are already in work**. Since they don't have enough income to cover the cost of essentials, it is surely wrong of the UK government to take away £20 a week from their already precarious incomes.

It would also be wrong to take £20 a week away from the incomes of people facing barriers to work, or for whom work is not an option. Six in ten working age people referred to food banks in the Trussell Trust network are **disabled** – three times the rate in the general population. And 18% of households referred to food banks during the pandemic were **single parents** with primary caring responsibility - that's more than twice the rate in the general population.

What is Exeter Food Bank doing?

Many people in Exeter and elsewhere do not understand the difference that £20 per week can make. We are joining with food banks across the country, the Trussell Trust, partner organisations and MPs of all political parties to try to persuade the Government to change its mind.



What you can do

- **Write to your MP** using this easy-to-use template: <https://bit.ly/3I9OCTE>
- **Raise awareness** of the issue by talking to your friends or writing to the paper
- **Follow @trusselltrust** on social media and **share** their posts
- **Upload a selfie** with a £20 note to social media using #20QuidCan & #KeepTheLifeline

Find out more & join the campaign: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/keepthelifeline/>



* <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/keepthelifeline-urging-government-not-cut-Universal-Credit>