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# LONDON ASSEMBLY



**Leonie Cooper AM**  
**Chair of the Economy Committee**

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
(Sent by email)

19 February 2021

Dear Minister,

The London Assembly Economy Committee is exploring the potential role for Universal Basic Income (UBI) in London's economic recovery from COVID-19. This follows a motion being brought to the full Assembly in November and referred to the Economy Committee for in-depth consideration. The motion asks the Assembly to call on the Mayor to write to the Government calling for a fully evaluated basic income in the city, and for him to work with local authorities to help test UBI in London. The Committee has not yet voted on this motion, and is gathering further information before making that decision.

Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. To that end we would be interested to understand the Treasury's position in supporting a UBI pilot. We are aware, from a recent debate in the House of Commons,<sup>1</sup> that the Treasury's current position is that UBI would not constitute an improvement to current welfare arrangements. However, in the exceptional circumstance of a post-pandemic recovery, the Economy Committee would be interested to learn whether there is appetite within your department to support a pilot in conjunction with a London borough so as to gain a deeper understanding of the impact and feasibility of UBI.

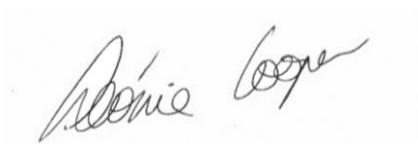
**Would the Treasury be willing to provide the financial support required to assist a London borough council in order to run an effective UBI pilot? If not, why not?**

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<sup>1</sup> [Universal Basic Income](#), Volume 685: debated on Tuesday 1 December 2020

I would be grateful to receive a response to our findings and recommendations by 26 February 2021.  
Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk Lauren Harvey  
([Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk](mailto:Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk)).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leonie Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

**Leonie Cooper AM**  
**Chair of the Economy Committee**