

LONDON ASSEMBLY

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www.london.gov.uk**Leonie Cooper AM**
Chair of the Economy Committee

Will Quince MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Work and Pensions)
(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.

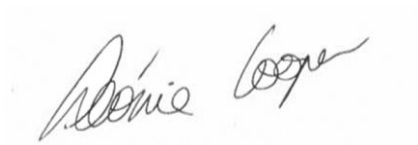
Our Committee is interested to examine the viability of calling for a pilot in London and the support that would need to be extended by relevant bodies for a pilot to be carried out. To that end we would be interested to understand the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) current position in supporting a UBI pilot. We are aware, from your contributions in the House of Commons¹ that the DWP's view is that UBI would not constitute an improvement to current welfare arrangements. However, in the exceptional circumstances of a post-pandemic recovery, the Economy Committee would be interested to learn whether there is any appetite within your department to support a UBI pilot in conjunction with a London borough so as to gain a deeper understanding of impact and feasibility of UBI.

¹ [Universal Basic Income](#), Volume 682: debated on Tuesday 13 October 2020

Would the DWP be willing to make the temporary amendments to the welfare system in a specific locality that would be required for an effective UBI pilot to be implemented? If not, why not?

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).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonie Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Leonie Cooper AM
Chair of the Economy Committee