

Changing Benefit To Universal Credit

If you get a letter from the DWP telling you to transfer to Universal Credit, please do not ignore it, you may miss the deadline.

It's also important to make your UC claim at the right time in the month and to get your existing benefits checked before you transfer. Here are some useful tips and points to consider when you are moving to Universal Credit:

- The housing element of Universal Credit is designed to cover some or all your rent and any service charges for your property. This is called your **"Housing Costs"**.
- Your first payment of Housing Costs will be paid to you directly by Universal Credit, you will need to then pay this to your rent account.
- After this first payment you can request that payments are made directly to Prospect.
- **You will not receive your first payment for up to 5 weeks !** This means that you will have to cover the rent during this time or your rent account will go into arrears. You can make payment yourself or you can apply to Universal Credit for an advance to cover your housing costs.
- Your rent is charged on the 1st of every month. But the date you receive your Universal Credit can be any date in the month so you need to tell us what date you receive your payments and the date you will be paying your rent.

If you would like advice on this, or on how to complete your claim, please contact Fiona McLuckie our Welfare Rights Officer
You can contact Fiona by email, fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk or you can phone/ text/ WhatsApp her on 07908 951297.

 Tel: 0131 458 5480
 Email: enquiries@prospectch.org.uk
 Text: 07860 047548

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Prospect Community Housing
6 Westburn Avenue
Wester Hailes
Edinburgh
EH14 2TH

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