

Welfare Reforms



THE Welfare Reform Bill, currently going through Parliament, will see a Universal Credit made as a single welfare payment for working age households.

The intention is that this payment – which will include Housing Benefit – will be paid directly to tenants. Tenants would then have to manage their income and set up processes to pay their rent to New Charter. This is a significant change to the current system in which many tenants choose to have their Housing Benefit paid directly to New Charter. As a landlord, we are concerned that by making these changes the Government is overriding tenants' freedom of choice at how they manage their money and that it will lead to increased debt and arrears.

The National Housing Federation is working with Department for Work and Pensions Officials to help design a workable payment system and to call for legislation to include the right for tenants to choose direct payment. New Charter aim to help these organisations lobby for the right for tenants to have their benefits paid directly to their landlord. Tenant support with this campaign is vital. If you want to show your support please contact the Resident Involvement Team on **0161 331 2400** or visit the link below:

www.housing.org.uk - click on 'Campaigns'; then select 'Contact your MP' under 'Unfair Housing Benefit Changes'. You will then be given advice on how to contact your MP to support the campaign; either via telephone or email.