

Short case study –August 21

Many of our clients this month have been worrying about the end of the £20 per week Universal Credit 'temporary uplift' which will mean that after the end of September they will be £80 per month worse off. This is pretty galling given that many of our clients need to top up expensive rents from their personal allowances or are paying back advance payments – loans – which they took out during the mandatory 6 week wait when they first applied for Universal Credit.

So, I was very pleased that our client Nadeem received his disability element of Universal Credit just in time, after months of pressing the DWP for the results of his assessment, giving him an extra £300 or so per month for food, bills and the various costs associated with his disability.

I have also been wrangling with the DWP on behalf of my client Oscar, who became blind in one eye after having a mini stroke. Oscar was awarded Personal Independence Payment, but at a rate we believe is too low given his significant medical problems, and I have been helping him to challenge this decision. We are waiting to hear back. I have also been helping Oscar to apply for the disability element of Universal Credit and we will be calling them together next week. I am hoping for another positive outcome for Oscar – watch this space.