

Dear Claire

In response to your FOI request I apologise for the delay in replying.

As a first-tier authority Derbyshire does not have responsibility for most of the issues that you have asked about and in the areas in which we do operate we mainly do not record information in a manner that would enable us to interpret it to answer your questions as set out.

Universal Support, and associated help to claimants, has been delivered by the second tier district and borough councils.

We do hold responsibility for the operation of the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/discretionaryfund] which assesses applications for emergency support. We do not offer crisis loans as framed in your Q2. If you would like information about the operation of the discretionary fund please let us know, although please be aware that whilst we hold some data from application sampling in relation to Universal Credit we do not record application data in a format that would enable us to analyse our historical applications for the information you have requested.

In addition, though the work of the Council's Welfare Rights Service we have led a county wide partnership approach to supporting residents and agencies in Derbyshire to be 'Universal credit ready'. We also respond to enquiries from claimants seeking advice and information through our Benefits Helpline. If you would like more information about either of these roles please do let us know.

Kind regards

Lois Race
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Amber Valley
Service Manager
Welfare Benefits Information and Advice Team