

BenefitsBulletin

Aberdeen City & Shire Advice Forum is a local network for people working in advice services to share information and experiences. The Forum meets quarterly throughout the year.

Monday 23rd November 2020 - Issue.28

More than 40 per cent of new benefit claimants during coronavirus crisis have seen their incomes fall by more than a quarter



New Resolution Foundation research also finds that more than half of lowest income families are having to borrow to cover everyday costs such as housing and food

In **Caught in a (Covid) trap: Incomes, savings, and spending through the coronavirus crisis**, the Resolution Foundation analyses data from an online survey of more than 6,000 working-age adults carried out in mid-September 2020 and finds that a complex picture emerges of the economic impacts of the pandemic on different groups - with some 'winners' in higher income quintiles and others protected from the sharpest income falls, to some extent, by policy actions such as the furlough schemes and temporary increases in universal credit and working tax credit.

Nevertheless, the Resolution Foundation also finds that a high proportion (43 per cent) of adults that had to make a new claim for benefits since February 2020 have seen their incomes fall by more than a quarter, while almost ten per cent of those already on benefits before the outbreak have faced a significant income drop.

Injured veterans are struggling to access the benefits they need, a new report has claimed

Poppyscotland and the Royal British Legion have made a series of recommendations to the Scottish and UK Governments to improve the social security system in the way it supports disabled veterans.

Making the Benefits System Fit for Service: Improving Support for Veterans with Military Compensation was published on Tuesday 17 November and makes a series of recommendations for improvements.

Over 28,000 applications received for Scottish Child Payment in the first three days

On Monday 9 November we started taking applications for the new Scottish Government benefit, Scottish Child Payment.

In our first three days, we received over 28,000 applications from clients across Scotland, according to initial figures.

This benefit starts on Monday 15 February 2021 with the first payments expected to be made from the end of February.

Stakeholder resources for Scottish Child Payment are available on our website and we have produced a short **video** to help clients and stakeholders understand what the payment is and what our timeline is for it.



Financial Wellbeing Officer - Scottish Huntington's Association
Energy Specialism covering East Scotland (Tayside, Fife and Forth Valley), initially homeworking.

[More information](#)

Housing Support Worker

Salary Scale £26,067.00 - £30,618.00
+ Optional Defined Contribution Pension Scheme
Hours - 35 hours per week, Fixed Term for 3 years
Closing date for applications is 30th November and interviews will be held on the 14th December 2020.
Details [HERE](#)



Regional Community Fundraiser Aberdeen Shelter

£29,453 pa + excellent benefits including 30 days holiday and flexible working
Closing date: 03/12/2020 at 11.30pm
Details [HERE](#)

Money Wellbeing Worker Aberdeen Children 1st

Salary: Starting at £21,602 with progression to £26,186
Closing date: 04/12/2020 12:00
Details [HERE](#)



Devolved nations call on Work and Pensions Secretary to develop a 'more strategic approach' to benefit take-up

Maximising benefit take-up is a 'moral duty', the devolved nations have said, calling on the Work and Pensions Secretary Dr Thérèse Coffey to develop a 'more strategic approach'.

In a joint letter to Dr Coffey, the Scottish Social Security Secretary and Ministers from Wales and Northern Ireland highlight the action that each of their devolved governments is taking to promote benefit take-up, and ask -

'With this in mind, we write to urge a more strategic approach to maximising take-up from your Department. In particular we would very much welcome a published awareness raising strategy/communications campaign. We would be happy to meet at a Ministerial or official level to discuss the interdependencies and practicalities of this, and to share learning from our respective extensive stakeholder engagement and our own work to promote take-up.'

Referring to an agreement given by DWP officials in January 2020 - [during an evidence session before the Scottish Parliament's Social Security](#) Committee - to consider how the Department could be more proactive in using existing data to approach individuals claiming one benefit to make them aware of their possible eligibility for others, the letter continues -

'We would be grateful if you were able to give an update on the progress of that consideration. This is of interest to Ministers in all devolved administrations as we seek to ensure everyone who is eligible for financial support gets it. This is more important than ever as we face the economic impact of COVID-19 and we believe is also a moral duty to ensure citizens are fully supported.'

In addition, the letter repeats previous requests to the UK Government to make permanent the £20 per week increase to universal credit and working tax credit - brought in at the start of the coronavirus pandemic - and to announce it without delay in order to avoid causing further anxiety.

For more information, see [Devolved nations call for joint effort to reach those in need](#) from gov.scot

Update on delivery timeline for devolved benefits. Child Disability Payment will be the next new benefit to be introduced by the Scottish Government

In an update to the Scottish Parliament today, Cabinet Secretary for Social Security Shirley-Anne Somerville said Social Security Scotland will start taking applications from summer 2021 as part of a pilot, ahead of a full roll-out across the country from autumn 2021.

This will be followed by the introduction of Adult Disability Payment, which will be piloted from spring 2022 and available across the country by summer 2022.

Child Disability Payment will replace the DWP's Disability Living Allowance for Children and Adult Disability Payment will replace Personal Independence Payment.

People who currently get UK Government disability benefits will be transferred to the new Scottish system in stages after the new benefits are introduced. This work is expected to be completed to the previously announced timeline of 2025.

Once Adult Disability Payment has been rolled out, anyone on Personal Independence Payment or Working Age Disability Living Allowance who reports a change in condition, has an upcoming review date, or is about to reach the end of their DWP award period, will transfer to Social Security Scotland so that they do not have to undergo a DWP face-to-face assessment.

The Cabinet Secretary also confirmed the ambition to roll out Scottish Child Payment to under-16s by the end of 2022, subject to getting the data for 6-16 year olds from the DWP.

Read the [Cabinet Secretary's full statement](#).

Child Disability Payment
will be delivered
across Scotland from
autumn 2021



Disability assistance - doing this differently

Last month we held a virtual event for stakeholders to talk about how we will be doing things differently when we introduce disability assistance. These events set out plans for everything from applications right through to appeals.

Those who couldn't attend the event are able to access [recordings of all the sessions](#).

To read more detail, you can also access the [latest position papers setting out our plans for disability assistance](#) under a new Scottish system.



Social Security Scotland

Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

What we are doing to encourage take up of Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland are working hard to make sure everyone who is entitled to Scottish Child Payment knows that it is available and applies.

We have published a policy position paper outlining what we are doing to promote take up of this new benefit.

Read more at [gov.scot/publications/maximising-take-up-scottish-child-payment-position-paper/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/maximising-take-up-scottish-child-payment-position-paper/)

Call to help raise awareness of Scottish Child Payment

Our stakeholders play a key role in the promotion of our benefits. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Together we hope that we can get money to those who need it and contribute to tackling poverty and inequality.

As well as our Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People writing to MSPs, MPs and a number of stakeholders, we would also like to ask for your help in spreading the word about Scottish Child Payment

So that you can build promotional work of this benefit into your communication plans and interaction with clients, Social Security Scotland are providing stakeholder resources now.

This way you can review content available, order materials or get in touch if you need something more bespoke.

If you would like any of materials in hard copy or in an alternative format to give to the people you work with, please email

communications@socialsecurity.gov.scot with your request.

All available resources can be found at [socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/resources](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/resources)

Child Winter Heating Assistance payments to start

Families of disabled children will receive a new heating benefit by Christmas.

The Child Winter Heating Assistance is a new £200 payment to help families of a child on the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance for Children to heat their homes. There are more than 14,000 children expected to be eligible.

Payments will arrive with people from **Friday 27 November** and these are expected to be complete by **Friday 11 December**.

People do not need to apply for this payment. In the vast majority of cases it will be made automatically by Social Security Scotland using information provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (although we may need to contact some families to check the information we have). Families will get a letter in advance to confirm that they will be getting this payment. Find out more at [gov.scot/news/child-winter-heating-assistance-payments-to-start/](https://www.gov.scot/news/child-winter-heating-assistance-payments-to-start/)

After we have rolled out **Adult Disability Payment**, anyone in receipt of PIP or Working Age DLA who reports a change in condition, has an upcoming review, or is reaching the end of their DWP award period, will transfer to [@SocSecScot](https://twitter.com/SocSecScot)

People in receipt of PIP or Working Age DLA will transfer before their next review date or the end of their DWP award period so that they do not need to undergo a DWP face-to-face assessment.



People who currently get UK Government disability and carer benefits will be transferred to the new Scottish system in stages, this is expected to be completed by 2025.

All people on UK Government disability and carer benefits expected to be transferred to the new Scottish system by 2025



New benefit system to offer short term assistance

People challenging disability benefit decisions will be able to claim a new Short Term Assistance payment under Scotland's new social security system.

Short Term Assistance will mean people continue to receive the amount of money they were getting before the decision was made to lower or stop their payment.

To ensure people are not put off seeking an appeal or re-determination, they will not have to repay Short Term Assistance if the re-determination or appeal upholds the decision to lower or stop their social security payment.

This is a first for benefit delivery in the UK and it will be introduced alongside Child Disability Payment, the Scottish Government's replacement for Disability Living Allowance for Children.

To find out more about plans for redeterminations and appeals for disability assistance under our new system, please see our latest policy position papers [gov.scot/collections/social-security-policy-position-papers/](https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-policy-position-papers/)

The DWP has issued new guidance in relation to the reallocation of monthly earnings to different universal credit assessment periods.

In *ADM Memo 27/20*, the DWP provides guidance on the *Universal Credit (Earned Income) Amendment Regulations 2020 (SI.No.1138/2020)* that amend the income assessment rules in regulation 61 of the *Universal Credit Regulations 2013* following the decision of the Court of Appeal in [Johnson and Others](#).

The new guidance advises that -

- 'Where a person is engaged in an employment where they are paid on a regular monthly basis and more than one payment in relation to that employment is reported in the same assessment period, the Secretary of State may, for the purposes of maintaining a regular pattern, determine that one of those payments is to be treated as employed earnings in respect of a different assessment period'.

In addition, the DWP provides guidance in relation to the general requirement for the calculation of employed earnings to be based on the Real Time Information received by the Secretary of State from HMRC, advising that it is to be taken at face value unless certain exceptions apply -

where the Secretary of State considers that the employer is unlikely to report information to HMRC in a sufficiently accurate or timely manner;

- where it appears to the Secretary of State that the amount of a payment reported to HMRC is incorrect, or fails to reflect the definition of employed earnings in regulation 55 (employed earnings) in some material respect; and
- where no information is received from HMRC in an assessment period and the Secretary of State considers that this is likely to be because of a failure to report information.

See [ADM Memo 27/20](#)

Warm Home Discount Scheme

You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2020 to 2021 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme.

charis

The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March. You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find out.

The discount will not affect your [Cold Weather Payment](#) or [Winter Fuel Payment](#).

Eligibility

There are 2 ways to qualify for the Warm Home Discount Scheme:

- you get the [Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit](#) - known as the 'core group'
- [you're on a low income](#) and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme - known as the 'broader group'

How you apply for the Warm Home Discount Scheme depends on how you qualify for the discount.

Pre-pay or pay-as-you-go meters

You can still qualify for the discount if you use a pre-pay or pay-as-you-go electricity meter.

Your electricity supplier can tell you how you'll get the discount if you're eligible, for example a voucher you can use to top up your meter.

Contact Charis Grants for more information about the scheme:

Charis Grants Ltd

Telephone: 0330 555 9424

SSAC Occasional Paper 24: A review of the COVID-19 temporary measures

Published 18 November 2020

This project was conducted as part of the Social Security Advisory Committee's (SSAC) independent work programme, under which the Committee investigates pertinent issues relating to the operation of the benefits system.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-review-of-the-covid-19-temporary-measures



Financial Inclusion Report 2019-2020

Published 19 November 2020

The Financial Inclusion report outlines the government's progress to tackle financial exclusion over the last year and to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background or income, have access to useful and affordable financial products and services.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-inclusion-report-2019-2020



EU Settlement Scheme Project

We have recently been informed that funding for CAB's EU Settlement Scheme Project has been extended until the end of March 2021. I'm sure you will all agree that this is fantastic news given the number of individuals who are yet to apply to the scheme and may require assistance in doing so.

If you have any service users who require support with the application, the CABs in the different areas can be contacted as follows:

Aberdeen City - Georgiana Bugeag - EUCitizens@aberdeencab.casonline.org.uk
Banff and Buchan - Magda Chorab - EUCitizens@AberdeenshireCAB.casonline.org.uk
Kincardine and Mearns - Margaret Pyle - EUCitizens@kamcab.casonline.org.uk
South West Aberdeenshire CAB - Gosia Baranowska - EUCitizens@swacab.org.uk
Turiff (North West Aberdeenshire CAB) - Tracy O-Neil - EUCitizens@Turiff.casonline.org.uk

There is also the Citizens Advice Scotland EU Settlement Helpline which can be contacted on **0800 916 9847**.

The application deadline is **30th June 2021**; however, we recommend that individuals apply as soon as possible as their eligibility for welfare benefits, etc. may be affected come **1st January 2021** depending on their status at the end of the transition period.

The following seeks to further update on and clarify the benefits rights of EEA Nationals, both during the period up to the 31st December 2020 (The 'implementation period completion day') and from 1st January 2021 to 30th June 2021 (the end of the 'transition period').

First, we can confirm that [The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination \(EU Withdrawal\) Act 2020](#) has now received Royal Assent. This Act removes the right of residence under European Law and repeals the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2016, effectively removing freedom of movement at **11pm on 31st December 2020**.

This means:

1. Turning first to EEA Nationals who have *not* been granted PRE-SETTLED STATUS, the benefit rights of this group are dealt with under the new Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.

These regulations provide for EEA Nationals (and their family members) who have not been granted PRE-SETTLED STATUS *and* who are exercising their Treaty Rights (e.g. because they are a worker or self-employed person or family member of such a person) immediately before **31st December 2020** to continue to exercise said rights up to 30th June 2020. This would allow them to claim or continue to receive the following Social Security benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based JSA
- Income-related ESA
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Council Tax Reduction.

Employers handed 246 pages of guidance on new worker sponsorship system

The UK's new immigration system is hurtling towards us at a rate of knots. As of 1 January 2021, newly arrived EU citizens coming to work in the UK are likely to need to be sponsored for a visa by their employer.

[The document from hell just got longer](#)

Then, after **30th June 2021**, if the EEA National has not been granted PRE-SETTLED STATUS (or SETTLED STATUS), they may be required to leave the United Kingdom as they will no longer be lawfully resident and will not in consequence be entitled to the aforementioned Social Security benefits.

2. Turning next to EEA Nationals who have been granted PRE-SETTLED STATUS, the benefit rights of this group will likely be dealt with under these draft regulations. These draft regulations - [The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination \(EU Withdrawal\) Act 2020 \(Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#) - make provision for EEA Nationals (and their family members) who hold PRE-SETTLED STATUS to continue to rely on their Treaty rights - and claim Social Security benefits - beyond **31st December 2020**.

The fortunes of EEA Nationals who have been granted PRE-SETTLED STATUS may change depending on the outcome of [Fratila](#). This case was heard in the Court of Appeal on 27th and 28th October 2020 and a decision is pending. In this case it has been argued that it is unlawful discrimination to remove eligibility for Social Security benefits from those with a domestic right of residence (which is clearly afforded to those with PRE-SETTLED STATUS) on the basis of their nationality. The case actually lost at the High Court on grounds that such indirect discrimination was considered to be justified. If the Fratila appeal should be allowed (and there is no appeal to the Supreme Court), EEA Nationals who have been granted PRE-SETTLED STATUS will be able to claim the aforementioned Social Security benefits at least until any possible rule change post **30th June 2021**. They would not need to be working or self-employed to gain entitlement to Social Security benefits.

Do note that the benefits listed on page 5 of the Benefits Bulletin will still be available to those with PRE-SETTLED STATUS both before and after **30th June 2021**. Moreover, as made clear on page 5 of the Benefits Bulletin, those who obtain SETTLED STATUS will be entitled to apply for any Social Security benefits in the same way as British citizens are.

Finally, please be aware that the above information (and that contained in the Benefits Bulletin) only applies to EEA Nationals who are living in the United Kingdom prior to 11pm on **31st December 2020**. As a general rule, any EEA National wishing to enter the United Kingdom to work after this time will subject to the new [points-based immigration system](#).

New guidance launched to help schools in Scotland enhance financial education for primary and secondary pupils

New [financial education guidance for primary and secondary schools in Scotland](#) has been launched today, endorsed by the Scottish Government.

The guidance, which has been created by the Money and Pensions Service, as part of the drive to support financial wellbeing and the delivery of financial education for people across the UK, is designed to encourage conversations about money in the classroom. This follows the annual Talk Money campaign launched last week (9-13 November), which found that 37% of people in Scotland have kept secrets from loved ones about credit cards, loans, and savings.

New grant launched for businesses that are required to close by law as a result of COVID 19

Businesses required to close due to COVID 19 restrictions may be eligible for a new tranche of funding administered by local authorities.

Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council are now accepting applications to the Strategic Framework Business Fund provided by Scottish Government (Tues, Nov 11).

Linked to Scotland's Strategic Framework, businesses required to close by law or to significantly change operations due to COVID-19 restrictions may be eligible for grant funding.

Funding will cover any closures with the earliest claim date being 2 November 2020.

Those required to close can apply for the Temporary Closure grant and will be entitled to a payment of £2,000 or £3,000 dependent on Rateable Value. Grants will be paid every four weeks in arrears, with an upper limit of £15,000 in total per four-week period for eligible businesses operating multiple premises.

Businesses required to modify operations, for example closing time, can apply to the Business Restrictions grant. This grant offers a payment of £1,400 or £2,100 based on Rateable Values and is again payable every four weeks with an upper limit of £10,500 for businesses with multiple premises.

For full eligibility criteria and to apply please visit:

- Aberdeen City Council: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-strategic-framework-business-fund
- Aberdeenshire Council: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/business/business-covid-19/covid-19-strategic-framework-business-fund/

Impact of withdrawing emergency benefits

Report shows 60,000 Scots face poverty as result of UK cuts.

More than 60,000 people in Scotland, including 20,000 children, will be plunged into poverty if the UK Government continues with plans to withdraw benefits brought in to provide support through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a new report has shown.

Scottish Government analysis shows that if the UK Government takes away the £20-a-week increase in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits, and reinstates the Minimum Income Floor for the self-employed, as planned in April 2021, Scottish households will lose up to £476 million.

Scheduling the **withdrawal of the £20 uplift** and the **reinstatement of the Minimum Income Floor to April 2021** will coincide with the **Job Support Scheme** and the **Self-Employment Income Support Scheme** coming to an end.

The Minimum Income Floor (MIF) is a base amount used to calculate how much Universal Credit should be awarded to self-employed people. Anyone earning below the MIF is treated as though they earn that amount, while those earning more have their actual earnings taken into account.

The Job Retention Scheme has played an important role in curbing unemployment since it was introduced in March, with nearly a quarter of a million workers furloughed in Scotland as of 31 August. If the scheme finishes as scheduled in April 2021, it is likely the number of people claiming benefits will rise further.

The Scottish Government report, Impact of withdrawing emergency benefit measures, can be [read in full here](#).



[The cold, hard facts about homelessness in 2020 Britain](#)

November 19, 2020



[The impact of COVID-19 on people facing homelessness and service provision across Great Britain \(2020\)](#)

19.11.2020



[The £20 weekly uplift must be extended to legacy benefits](#)

18th Nov 2020



[Winter Covid debt warning: young people, ethnic minorities, and renters at most financial risk](#)

18/11/2020



The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has confirmed updated support for mortgage borrowers impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19)

New guidance comes into force from **20 November** but lenders are encouraged to provide enhanced support sooner where they can

Following a brief 'comment period' after it published [draft guidance](#) on 2 November 2020, the FCA has now confirmed the enhanced support that will be available to mortgage borrowers experiencing payment difficulties as a result of coronavirus -

- those who have not yet had a payment deferral will be eligible for payment deferrals of six months in total;
- those who currently have a payment deferral will be eligible to top up to six months in total;
- those who have previously had payment deferrals of less than six months will be able to top up, as long as total deferrals don't exceed six months - this includes those receiving tailored support and those who are behind on payments; and
- borrowers who have already had six months of payment deferrals will not be eligible for a further payment deferral - firms will provide tailored support appropriate to their circumstances which may include the option to defer further payments.

NB - [tailored support](#) will continue to be offered as previously.

Also confirming that no one should have their home repossessed without their agreement until after 31 January 2021, interim Executive Director of Strategy and Competition at the FCA Sheldon Mills said -

'Today we have confirmed further support for borrowers struggling financially as a result of coronavirus.

The announcement we have made today, ensures that the support offered through payment deferrals is as flexible and accessible as possible. This means borrowers will again be able to access payment deferrals up to a maximum of 6 months. However, if you are able to keep paying it will be in your best long-term interest to do so. Payment deferrals should only be taken when absolutely necessary.'



**FINANCIAL
CONDUCT
AUTHORITY**

For more information, see [FCA confirms support for mortgage borrowers impacted by coronavirus](#) from fca.org.uk

Financial Conduct Authority confirms updated support for consumer credit customers impacted by coronavirus

New guidance comes into force from **25 November 2020**, but lending firms are encouraged to provide enhanced support immediately where they can

Following a brief 'comment period' after it published [draft guidance](#) on 4 November 2020, the FCA has now confirmed the enhanced support that will be available to consumer credit customers experiencing payment difficulties as a result of coronavirus -

- those who have not yet had a payment deferral will be eligible to apply for payment deferrals of up to six months in total until 31 March 2021;
- those who currently have a payment deferral will be eligible to apply for a further deferral, as long as the total length of deferrals doesn't exceed a maximum of six months in total and does not extend beyond 31 July 2021;
- those who have previously had a payment deferral of less than six months will also be eligible to apply for a further payment deferral, as long as the deferrals don't exceed six months in total;
- a firm may assess that a payment deferral is obviously not in a customer's interest, in which case, the firm should instead provide tailored support appropriate to the customer's circumstances;
- consumers who have already had six months of payment deferrals or who are in arrears or receiving tailored support, will not be eligible for a further payment deferral - instead, firms will provide tailored support appropriate to their circumstances which may include the option to defer further payments;
- high-cost short-term credit consumers, such as those with payday loans, will be eligible for a payment deferral of one month.

NB - the FCA says that consumers who are struggling with the cost of their overdrafts will be able to request support such as the waiver of interest - as set out in [tailored support guidance](#) published in September 2020.

Commenting on the new guidance, interim Executive Director of Strategy and Competition at the FCA Sheldon Mills said -

'It is in a consumer's best interest to only take a payment deferral when absolutely necessary. Those that are able to keep paying should do so.

However, for those continuing to face payment difficulties as a result of coronavirus, these measures will ensure they continue to be able to access much needed support during this crisis. We also want to highlight that tailored support will still be offered and remains the most appropriate option for many borrowers.'

For more information, see [FCA confirms support for consumer credit customers impacted by coronavirus](#)

Amendments to regulations setting out how a week's pay is to be calculated for purposes of calculating statutory payments for furloughed workers

New statutory instrument makes amendments in consequence of Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme being extended to 31 March 2021

New legislation has been issued that makes amendments to regulations setting out how a week's pay is to be calculated for purposes of calculating statutory payments for workers who are furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS).

In force from 18 November 2020, the *Employment Rights Act 1996 (Coronavirus, Calculation of a Week's Pay) (Amendment) Regulations 2020* (SI.No.1296/2020) make amendments to the *Employment Rights Act 1996 (Coronavirus, Calculation of a Week's Pay) Regulations 2020* in consequence of the extension of the CJRS scheme to 31 March 2020.

NB - the *Employment Rights Act 1996 (Coronavirus, Calculation of a Week's Pay) Regulations 2020* set out how a week's pay is to be calculated in the case of an employee who has been furloughed under the CJRS, for the purposes of calculating -

- any statutory remuneration for time off to look for employment or arrange training;
- any statutory notice payment;
- any statutory sum resulting from a failure to provide a written statement of reasons for dismissal;
- any statutory sum resulting from a failure to comply with an order for reinstatement or re-engagement;
- any statutory compensation for unfair dismissal; and
- any statutory redundancy payment.

[SI.No.1296/2020](#) is available from [legislation.gov.uk](#)

People wanting to move to the UK to work, live or study will have to apply, and pay for a visa.

It will cost **£348 to apply for a student visa from outside the UK**, or £475 to extend or switch one from inside the UK.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens won't require a visa for tourist visits to the UK of up to six months.

There's also guidance for UK nationals living abroad **planning to return home** with family members who aren't UK citizens.



Consultation on free bus travel for people resident in Scotland aged under 19 Opened 26 Oct 2020 - Closes 7 Dec 2020

The Scottish Government intends to launch a new statutory national concessionary travel scheme providing free bus travel for young people resident in Scotland up to their 19th birthday (referred to as 'under 19s' or 'under 19' throughout this consultation). We anticipate that legislation to underpin the scheme would be required to be laid in Parliament in early 2021 and the scheme would come into effect later in 2021.

The consultation will run for six weeks and we are inviting responses by **Monday 7 December**.

Consultation [HERE](#)

