

Mon 31st May 2021 - Issue.43 (Fortnightly)

## Advice Forum Meeting 29th April

Please find attached a link to the minutes from our recent Advice Forum catch up on 29<sup>th</sup> April via Zoom.

Uploaded to Knowledgehub  
- [https://khub.net/group/aberdeen-aberdeenshire-advice-forum/group-forum/-/message\\_boards/message/466103156](https://khub.net/group/aberdeen-aberdeenshire-advice-forum/group-forum/-/message_boards/message/466103156)



Meeting Stream available here –  
<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/c279ee78-3de6-4347-b9ed-b1bac0332403>



## Don't miss out on your state pension – check your record!

In the past, the National Insurance Contributions Office (now part of HMRC) used to send out 'deficiency notices' telling people about gaps in their National Insurance contribution record.

These notices gave you an opportunity to plug the gaps by paying additional contributions. But HMRC now expect you to check your record for yourself. [Here's how.](#)



## Vacancies

- Care Support Workers/Support Workers
- Care Support Worker - Enhanced Framework Community Justice - Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire
- Sessional Care Support Worker - EFCJ - Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire
- Sessional Support Worker - SHSS - Aberdeen

[www.sacro.org.uk/organisation/recruitment](http://www.sacro.org.uk/organisation/recruitment)



## Advice line launched to help tackle malnutrition among older people in Scotland

Support for those aged 65+ will help with earlier intervention to stop physical and mental health problems from under-nourishment deepening

A charity leading the charge to tackle malnutrition among older people in Scotland has launched an advice line as part of efforts to ensure swifter support.

Food Train's Eat Well Age Well project team are manning the freephone Malnutrition Advice Line - 0800 13 88 220 - with a focus on those aged 65 and over.

They are providing crucial advice and practical information to older people themselves - or anyone concerned about an older person's wellbeing - on how they can stay well nourished.

The Malnutrition Advice line (0800 13 88 220) is open from 9am until 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or alternatively email [hello@eatwellagewell.org.uk](mailto:hello@eatwellagewell.org.uk) at any time. [More details are available online.](#)

## New Free Training Dates Added for 2021 and 2022

Training is FREE to attend and takes place between **9.15am – 12.30pm** on **Zoom**.

- Raising the Issue of Malnutrition
- REHIS: Eating Well for Older People course

For more information on any of our training opportunities, or if you would be interested in our **bespoke training**, then please **contact us**

<https://eatwellagewell.org.uk/news/?p=546#more-546>

## Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment guide for assessment providers

**Last updated: 17 May 2021**

Guidance for health professionals carrying out PIP assessment activity and for those responsible for the quality of PIP assessments.

The main change to this edition of the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Guide (PIPAG) is in part 2, to include guidance on the circumstances where a hearing impaired claimant may not be able to wash or bathe safely and in Daily Living Activity 4, if they cannot hear a standard fire alarm. This is following an Upper Tribunal decision (KT and SH), which was handed down on 21 August 2020. There are also a number of minor changes - in all 3 parts the phrase 'face to face' has been removed to reflect the addition of other assessment channels. There is a change to Part 3 to clarify maintenance of approval for health professionals.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-assessment-guide-for-assessment-providers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-assessment-guide-for-assessment-providers)

## MH v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (ESA): [2021] UKUT 90 (AAC)

**Published 17 May 2021**

Upper Tribunal Administrative Appeals Chamber decision of Judge Wikeley on 15 April 2021.

Claimant for employment and support allowance found to have limited capability for work but not limited capability for work-related activity - Claimant appealed to tribunal saying he should be in support group because of inappropriate behaviour - No points awarded for inappropriate behaviour - DWP appeals officer provided tribunal office with Unacceptable Customer Behaviour (UCB) report of incident involving claimant on visit to JobCentre - UCB report not disclosed to claimant but relied upon by tribunal in reaching its decision that he was not entitled to support group rate - Whether tribunal erred in law as to (i) application of regulation 35 and (ii) reliance on evidence that had not been disclosed to the claimant.

Read the full decision in [CE/685/2020](https://www.tribunals.uk/decisions/2021/05/17/CE/685/2020).

## KT and SH v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (PIP): [2020] UKUT 252 (AAC)

Read the full decision in [CPIP/3062/2016](https://www.tribunals.uk/decisions/2020/08/21/CPIP/3062/2016) and [CPIP/2660/2017](https://www.tribunals.uk/decisions/2020/08/21/CPIP/2660/2017).

### Judicial Summary

The claimants each need to remove their hearing aids to take a shower and to take a bath.

Each cannot without the aids hear a typical fire alarm or smoke alarm while taking a bath or shower with the door closed. It was common ground that having to leave the door open would not be washing and bathing "to an acceptable standard", as required by [regulation 4\(2A\)\(b\) of the Social Security \(Personal Independence Payment\) Regulations 2013](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/183/section/4/paragraphs/b).

Held:

- (1) In light of the decision of a three-judge panel in [RJ, GMcL and CS \[2017\] UKUT 0105 \(AAC\)](https://www.tribunals.uk/decisions/2017/01/17/RJ/GMcL/CS/2017), the First-tier Tribunal in each case erred in law in its consideration of whether the claimant can wash and bathe "safely", as required by regulation 4(2A)(a) and as defined by regulation 4(4)(a).
- (2) There should not be room for different First-tier Tribunal panels to make different decisions as to whether there is a risk that cannot reasonably or sensibly be ignored, where the differences between the panels' decisions arise not from differences in claimants' needs but from different assessments of the same objective evidence of risk.

[Memo ADM 09-21: PIP Daily Living Activity 4 – Effect of Upper Tribunal decision](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/memo-adm-09-21-PIP-daily-living-activity-4-effect-of-upper-tribunal-decision)

## DWP's 'Trust and Protect' scheme: Your need-to-knows

People who applied for Universal Credit as Covid hit could be subject to a benefits check by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Citizens Advice sets out your need-to-knows on the DWP's Trust and Protect scheme, and the steps you should take to ensure you don't lose out on benefits you're entitled to.

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/about-us1/media/press-releases/dwps-trust-and-protect-scheme-your-need-to-knows/](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/about-us1/media/press-releases/dwps-trust-and-protect-scheme-your-need-to-knows/)

## House of Commons written question

### Question for Department for Work and Pensions

#### Question

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support is in place to assist (a) people and (b) people with mental health difficulties with financial management and guidance on budgeting in cases where a large back payment has been awarded.

**Answered on 18 May 2021**

**Justin Tomlinson**

When a large back payment is made there are a number of mechanisms in place to support a customer, including those who may be vulnerable. These mechanisms depend on the legislative framework within the product line, and include payments being split between the customer and a third party with the customer's consent, payments being paid in full to a third party who will support the customer to manage the payment, or paying smaller amounts staggered over a period of time.

For example, within Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Universal Credit, where we identify that there may be an impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of a customer when they receive an arrears payment or a payment outside of their usual payment cycle, we work with the customer to understand their needs and help them to identify and access appropriate support.

This financial management support may include utilising the support of the Department's Advanced Customer Support Senior Leaders and signposting customers to external organisations. These organisations include the Money Advice Service, Money Advice Trust, Citizens Advice or the customer's own support worker, to ensure they are supported with the management of these funds.

We also offer budgeting support to customers receiving their regular benefits entitlement. In UC a referral process is in place where a need for Personal Budgeting Support is identified; this includes referral to online information, or a personal appointment by phone or in person to discuss a customer's individual requirements. In some cases, an Alternative Payment Arrangement is agreed - where for example, payments are made more frequently or directly to a landlord to support claimants with longer term budgeting problems.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/62>



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Published 17 May 2021

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### Judicial Summary

Claimant for employment and support allowance found to have limited capability for work but not limited capability for work-related activity.

Claimant appealed to tribunal saying he should be in support group because of inappropriate behaviour - No points awarded for inappropriate behaviour.

DWP appeals officer provided tribunal office with Unacceptable Customer Behaviour (UCB) report of incident involving claimant on visit to JobCentre - UCB report not disclosed to claimant but relied upon by tribunal in reaching its decision that he was not entitled to support group rate.

Whether tribunal erred in law as to (i) application of regulation 35 and (ii) reliance on evidence that had not been disclosed to the claimant.

## Trust & Protect

DWP Permanent Secretary Peter Schofield has confirmed that the Department is retrospectively verifying benefit awards that were subject to 'Trust and Protect' easements in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Failure to respond to the checks could lead to payments being stopped or changed, warns Citizens Advice

[Mr Schofield's letter to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee](#)



**Less than 5 per cent of the £10 million Covid-19 tenant hardship loan fund has been allocated since the launch of the fund in December 2020, Covid Recovery Cabinet Secretary John Swinney has told MSPs.**

Responding to an urgent question in Holyrood yesterday - on whether plans to protect private tenants from eviction while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place should be extended to include renters in level 2 areas as well as levels 3 and 4, and a grant fund be introduced to help tenants who are facing eviction - newly appointed Covid Recovery Minister John Swinney said -

‘As part of a suite of financial measures to support tenants, we launched a tenant hardship loan fund, which had £10 million allocated to it. As at 17 May, 145 loan awards had been made, with a total value of just more than £472,000, so there is existing capacity to support individuals, should it be required. Of course, that is in addition to the £5 million of extra funding that was made available to local authorities to provide discretionary housing payments for those needing help with their housing costs.’

In addition, Mr Swinney confirmed that further support may be considered if circumstances dictate -

‘There are a number of existing provisions, through the discretionary housing payment fund, that can support individuals ... but I stress that the government will retain an open mind, because clearly none of us is certain about the degree of hardship that is likely to emerge. We will have to address that when it presents itself.’

**Mr Swinney's response to the question on future support for renters**

## Scotland's Recovery

First Minister sets out priorities for Government.

- paying £100 as part of the £520 support for low-income families - the equivalent of the Scottish Child Payment
- legislating to give carers an extra Coronavirus payment of £460 - a double payment of their Carer's Allowance Supplement in December 2021
- increase the rate of Best Start Foods payments
  - \* New regulations have been issued in Scotland in relation to the Best Start Foods scheme - **SSI.No.221/2021**
- and begin longer-term work to develop a minimum income guarantee.

**[www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-recovery/](http://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-recovery/)**

**Priorities of Government statement – 26 May 2021**

## Funeral Support Payment pays out £14.4 million since launch

Over 9,300 people in Scotland qualified for help towards the cost of a funeral, according to the **latest figures** published today.

From mid-September 2019 to 31 March 2021, £14.4 million helped people pay towards burial or cremation costs and other expenses such as travel and flowers.

The average payment issued in the 2020/21 financial year was £1,791.

Funeral Support Payment is open to people who are on certain tax credits or benefits, are responsible for paying for a funeral and meet the other criteria.

People can apply after the person has died until 6 months after the date of their loved one's funeral.

People can choose to apply online, via a paper application form or by speaking to a specially trained advisor working within the dedicated Funeral Support Payment team.

To check eligibility and apply visit [mygov.scot](http://mygov.scot) or call 0800 182 2222.

Fact sheets, flyers and social media posts are available at **[stakeholder resources](#)**.





<http://citizensrightsproject.org>



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EURightsProject



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Company limited by guarantee in Scotland, company number SC561815  
Regulated by the OISC Ref No. N201900077  
St Margaret's House | 151 London Rd | Edinburgh | EH7 6AE

## EU Settlement Scheme: person with a Zambrano right to reside

This guidance tells you how, from 27 April 2021, to consider whether an applicant to the EU Settlement Scheme is a 'person with a Zambrano right to reside'

**Published for Home Office staff on 27 April 2021**

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT  
TO APPLY TO THE  
EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME  
HELP IS AVAILABLE



## EU Settlement Scheme: derivative right to reside (Chen and Ibrahim/Teixeira cases)

This guidance tells you how, from 31 October 2019, to consider whether an applicant to the EU Settlement Scheme is a 'person with a derivative right to reside'

**Published for Home Office staff on 18 November 2019**

## OISC Level 1 Assessments

From 1 June 2021 applicants seeking registration at Level 1 will only be allowed one attempt at the assessment. Currently, applicants are allowed two attempts. To support these changes the pass mark for the assessments will also change from 65% to 60%. This is in recognition that applicants will now need to successfully complete both test sections in one exam.

More: **[www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-oisc-level-1-assessment](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-oisc-level-1-assessment)**

## Advances in EU Settlement Scheme Guidance & Policy

**Published 19th May**

Public Law Project has **summarised progress following recent judicial review challenges** in advance of the 30 June cut off date .

Despite the claims ultimately being unsuccessful in court, they achieved significant positive developments in the EUSS system along the way. The claims have influenced positive developments in Home Office policy and guidance.

First, since the **JCWI** and **Migrants Organise** claims were commenced, there have been significant updates to the **guidance** to Home Office caseworkers who deal with applications to the EUSS: There is now five pages of detailed guidance about individuals with impaired mental capacity (pp. 127-131).

The guidance now contains a detailed section about who will be considered to have reasonable grounds to make a late application to the scheme after 30 June (pp. 27-44), which includes various protected groups that JCWI represent and individuals with impaired mental capacity who Migrants Organise represent.

The guidance states that if, after the deadline, Immigration Enforcement come across people who may be eligible to make a late application to the EUSS, they must signpost people to the scheme and give them chance to apply before taking any enforcement action against them (pp. 30-31).

By the Home Office's usual standards, this guidance is comprehensive and generous. It goes some way to mitigating the risks of falling off the 'cliff-edge'. We believe that at the very least this guidance was influenced by the litigation.



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<http://citizensrightsproject.org>



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RECEIVE FREE SUPPORT IN APPLYING FOR  
EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

## FREE SUPPORT WITH SETTLED STATUS APPLICATIONS

Every Monday  
17.00 - 19.00

Turning Point Scotland  
2nd Floor, 45-49 Holburn St,  
Aberdeen, AB10 6BR

**Booking is required!**

To book an appointment please email us:

[iona\\_rennie@shelter.org.uk](mailto:iona_rennie@shelter.org.uk),

[vikki\\_moroney@shelter.org.uk](mailto:vikki_moroney@shelter.org.uk),

[laura.keith@weareac.org](mailto:laura.keith@weareac.org)

To apply, bring your passport or other ID, National Insurance Number, proof of address and telephone. The information you share with us is confidential. Social distancing measures apply.

Citizens Rights Project is regulated by OISC. Ref No. N201900077



## Social security arrangements between the UK and the EU: staff guide

Last updated 28 May 2021

This staff guidance explains the social security coordination arrangements between the UK and the EU under the EU Withdrawal Agreement

This guidance is for staff in the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue & Customs, and the Department of Health and Social Care. It is to be used by staff when considering an application for a social security benefit or pension from:

- a UK national living in the **European Economic Area (EEA)** or Switzerland
- an EEA or Swiss national living in the UK

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-security-arrangements-between-the-uk-and-the-eu-from-1-january-2021-staff-guide](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-security-arrangements-between-the-uk-and-the-eu-from-1-january-2021-staff-guide)

## EU citizens are being denied entry to the UK – what are the visa rules for visitors?

Travel to the UK is opening back up, but not as we previously knew it. The news has been replete with **examples** of EU citizens being **denied entry** at UK airports and **detained for removal**. These stories are nothing new to jaded non-European ears. But for many European travellers, this early post-Brexit period has been the first time they've come up against the realities of UK immigration policy.

EU free movement rights ended at 11pm on 31 December 2020. All EU arrivals after that date must either already possess valid permission to enter or remain (for example, in the form of pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme), or they must seek permission to enter as a visitor at the border. Entry to the UK for other purposes without a visa is not permitted.

This Q&A explains the rules on entering the UK as a visitor and why people might be stopped at the border.

**Article** curtesy of Free-Movement



## Articles



### Reforms on sanctions, assessments and Access to Work

The minister for disabled people has provided some of the first details of how the government plans to reform the social security system for disabled people through its long-delayed health and disability green paper.

Justin Tomlinson **told MPs on the work and pensions select committee** that



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

the green paper would include changes to disability benefit assessments, the Access to Work system, and benefit sanctions.

He also suggested that the green paper, and the delayed **cross-government disa-**

**bility strategy**, would “possibly, probably” be published together and before the summer recess in July.

It is the first time that the minister has admitted that his disability strategy will not be

**[www.disabilitynewsservice.com/tomlinson-sketches-out-reforms-on-sanctions-assessments-and-access-to-work/](http://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/tomlinson-sketches-out-reforms-on-sanctions-assessments-and-access-to-work/)**

### Going with the grain: How to increase Social Security with public support

FABIAN  
SOCIETY

New Fabian Society research finds the British public backs higher benefits for 4.6 million families.

Following the pandemic, our latest study of public attitudes to social security reveals a groundswell of support for increasing benefit payments, including raising benefits for three quarters of households who will receive universal credit.

The major citizens’ jury and national poll demonstrated strong public support for increasing benefits for disabled people, carers of disabled people, young people aged 18 to 24, and lone parents who are in work or looking after young children.

Going with the Grain presents these new findings alongside detailed plans for improving social security, designed to go with the grain of public opinion.

**DOWNLOAD NOW**

**<https://fabians.org.uk/publication/going-with-the-grain/>**

### More than 7.1 Million People Are Missing Out On £15.1bn of Benefits Says Charity Turn2Us

National poverty charity Turn2us warns that at least seven million people across the UK are missing out on over £15 billion of unclaimed benefits, increasing their risk of being pushed into financial hardship or even poverty.

Further research by the charity has found that almost half of people (45%) have never checked their entitlement, with institutional stigma, cultural shame and negative media representation of benefit claimants cited as some of the most common barriers.

Proportionately, pensioners are the least likely to check what benefits they can claim – 63% of whom have never checked. They are also the least likely to claim the benefits they have a right to, with one in three missing out on Pension Credit.

Turn2us has responded to this issue with the release of a new Benefits Calculator tool that has been designed in partnership with people who have lived expertise. The charity is urging people to check their entitlement and start the application process as soon as possible.

**[www.abccorg.net/item/3678-more-than-7-1-million-people-are-missing-out-on-15-1bn-of-benefits-says-charity-turn2us](http://www.abccorg.net/item/3678-more-than-7-1-million-people-are-missing-out-on-15-1bn-of-benefits-says-charity-turn2us)**





## Articles

### 70% of Disabled people feel DWP contracted assessor did not understand their condition: shocking new Z2K research



In April 2021, Z2K surveyed 1,420 Disabled people who have been through the assessment process for disability benefits: PIP, ESA, and the Limited Capability for Work elements of Universal Credit (UC).

Those surveyed by Z2K were asked to share their insights on the assessment process – including the Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) and appeals process – as well as the changes that they would like to see made to the current assessment regime.

They were also asked their opinion on whether the Government's upcoming Health and Disability Green Paper will deliver on generating desired reform.

In terms of assessment and MR/appeal process:

- 70 % of people feel like the assessor DWP contracted to carry out their assessment did not understand their condition
- 66 % of people feel like the assessment report they got after the decision did not reflect what they'd told the assessor in the assessment
- 49 % of those respondents who challenged a decision to refuse their claim at DWP's internal MR stage saw that decision overturned.
- 87 % of the remaining respondents who went on to appeal to the independent First Tier Tribunal had DWP's decision overturned

Further details [HERE](#)



### £1.8 billion in pension credit left unclaimed - how to check if you or someone you know is eligible

MSE

MoneySavingExpert.com

A former pensions minister has urged people to use this Bank Holiday weekend as an opportunity to check if elderly relatives or neighbours are missing out on £1,000s a year in pension credit, with recent figures showing up to £1.8 billion remains unclaimed. Here's how to check if you or someone you know is eligible - and what to do if so.

Baroness Ros Altmann, who was the pensions minister from 2015 to 2016, issued the call on her personal Blog [PensionsAndSavings.com](#). She urged those making post-lockdown visits this weekend to help spread the word, and encourage those who could be eligible to check if they are, and claim if so.

According to the most recent figures published by the Department for Work and Pensions, an estimated £1.8 billion in pension credit went unclaimed during the financial year 2018 to 2019, with almost a million households thought to be missing out. And crucially, if you claim pension credit you may be able to access a whole range of other perks, such as free TV licences for the over-75s, the warm home discount and free dental treatment. We've key need-to-knows below on how it works and how to claim, but for full info see our [Pension Credit](#) guide.

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2021/05/pension-credit-bank-holiday-billions-unclaimed/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2021/05/pension-credit-bank-holiday-billions-unclaimed/)





## Articles

### Campaigners call for action to fix 'absurd' universal credit flaws stopping vulnerable people getting help managing benefits

MSE

MoneySavingExpert.com

Campaigners have called on the Government to fix "absurd flaws" with the benefits system that prevent vulnerable people from getting help from family and friends to manage their universal credit accounts. Without this help, campaigners warn claimants ultimately risk losing their benefits.

MoneySavingExpert.com founder Martin Lewis - alongside charity the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI), which he also set-up - has issued the call as part of a new campaign called Set Up To Fail. The initiative is backed by eight national charities from across the mental health and advice sectors, including Mind, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Turn2Us, the Money Charity, and Advice UK.

It comes as new research from the MMHPI found that 100,000s of people experiencing high levels of mental distress may struggle to effectively manage their universal credit accounts without help from family or friends. Yet while over half of those with mental health problems need this support, only one in 10 managed to nominate a regular helper.

The charity's research adds that without support, many people dealing with common symptoms of mental health issues, such as struggling to understand complex information and remembering appointments, find it difficult to deal with the ongoing admin and processes required to claim universal credit.

See our [Universal Credit](#) guide for full details on who can get it, how much you can get, and how to apply.

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2021/05/martin-lewis-campaigners-universal-credit-mental-health-benefits/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2021/05/martin-lewis-campaigners-universal-credit-mental-health-benefits/)

### Online Event Light at the end of the Tunnel - Aberdeenshire



**Date and time: Tue, 8 June 2021  
14:00 – 15:30 BST**

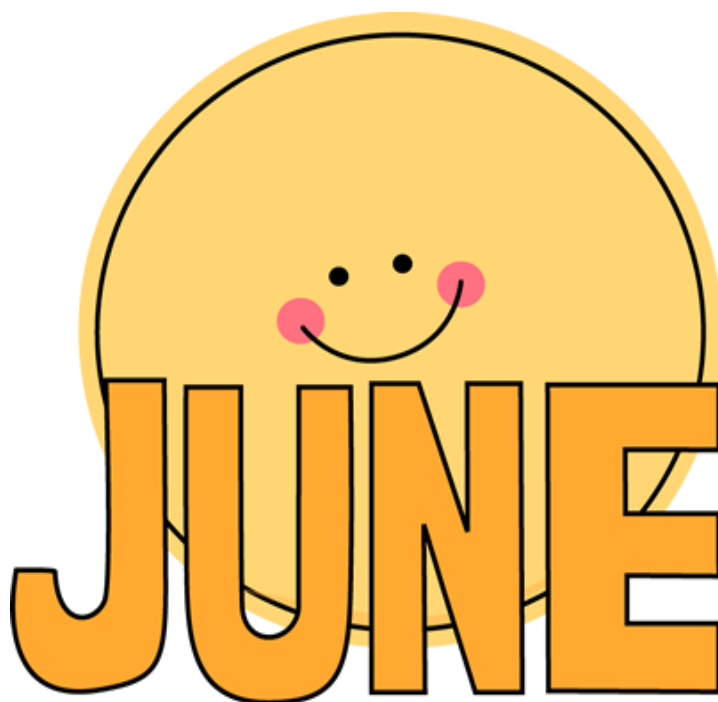
As lockdown restrictions start to ease, let's work together and ensure our services are still meeting the needs of the community.

Hear about Food Train Connects and share what your organisations are doing as we emerge from the tunnel of lockdown. Are you going to be doing anything differently as a result of Covid-19?

**Is your temporary funding coming to an end?**

We welcome anyone interested in finding out more about Food Train and we encourage any organisations or community groups in the Aberdeenshire area, in particular those working with older people or in providing food and grocery services, to join us.

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-aberdeenshire-tickets-](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-aberdeenshire-tickets-)





## AMI Lunch and Learn

The date for the next AMI Lunch and Learn event for free sector debt advisers has been scheduled for **Wednesday 9 June**. Following feedback from a few advisers, we propose to start at the slightly earlier time of **11.00am** this time around. As usual it will run for around an hour (up to 90 minutes maximum) and is completely free of charge.

I will send out details of the topics/speakers in due course, but meanwhile if you think you might like to attend this event then please save the date in your diary and reply to me to book your place. Kevin Mapstone

<[kevin.mapstone@amifinancialsolutions.com](mailto:kevin.mapstone@amifinancialsolutions.com)>

Kind regards,

**Kevin Mapstone**

**Insolvency Practitioner, AMI Financial Solutions**



**Low Incomes Tax Reform Group**  
A voice for the unrepresented

## Guidance on where to include your SEISS grants on your tax return

**Published on 28 May 2021**

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grants are payments made by the government to eligible unincorporated businesses which have been adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The grants are subject to income tax and self-employed National Insurance contributions (NIC) and for all individuals and most partners in partnerships, the **first three SEISS grants** must be included on the 2020/21 tax returns.

LITRG has published guidance on where the SEISS grants need to be included on your Self-Assessment tax returns, and areas you may need to consider when completing your tax returns, such as if you have multiple trades, claim the trading allowance, are a partner in a partnership or claim tax credits.

The guidance can be found [here](#).

Source [www.litr.org.uk/latest-news/news/210528-guidance-SEISS-grants-on-your-tax-return](http://www.litr.org.uk/latest-news/news/210528-guidance-SEISS-grants-on-your-tax-return)



**Office for National Statistics**

**Ef-**

## Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income: financial year ending 2020

**Release date: 28 May 2021**

The redistribution effects on individuals and households of direct and indirect taxation and benefits received in cash or kind analysed by household type.

[Source](#)

## Amigo Loans on the brink: Subprime lender's shares crash close to 50% after High Court rules against rescue plan

**amigo**  
loans.co.uk

- The guarantor lender was struggling with historic mis-selling complaints
- It had proposed a plan to cap compensation payouts which needed approval
- However the High Court gave the thumbs down to the plan which it said was unfair to its creditors

Shares in subprime lender Amigo Loans fell close to 50 per cent today after its proposed rescue plan was roundly rejected by the High Court, despite the approval of creditors.

More details [HERE](#)

## EU residence documents are no longer valid after 30 June 2021

Although the UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and the post-Brexit transition period came to an end on 31 December 2020, certain aspects of EU free movement law continue to apply into 2021 — but not for much longer. Old EU residence documents such as permanent residence cards, UK residence cards and derivative residence cards continue to be valid only until 30 June 2021, when this “grace period” comes to an end.

These documents have effectively been replaced by the newer pre-settled status and settled status, although these are not granted automatically and anyone who only has an old EU residence document should apply for a new status by 30 June.

### Expiry of EU residence documents

Under EU free movement law, citizens of European Economic Area countries and their family members could apply for permanent residence documents if they had been living in the UK for at least five years, and non-EEA family members specifically could apply for UK residence cards and derivative residence cards if they were living in the UK for less than five years. These documents are evidence that someone is residing in the UK lawfully under the EEA Regulations 2016.

As EU residence documents are issued in accordance with the EEA Regulations, they will no longer be valid when free movement law truly ends on 30 June 2021. After this date, holders of these documents will essentially be living in the UK unlawfully. This is due to the Citizens' Rights Regulations 2020 and the Immigration Act 2020 which bring EU free movement law to an end in the UK and repeal the EEA Regulations.



### What if I want to stay in the UK?

Holders of EU residence documents who wish to remain in the UK should apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to regularise their stay before 30 June 2021.

Those who already have a permanent residence document can essentially swap it for full settled status. Residence card and derivative residence card holders will also be able to apply for settled status if they have been living in the UK for at least five years, and for pre-settled status if they have not yet reached five years' residence.

The deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme for those living in the UK before 31 December 2020 is 30 June 2021. If you intend to remain in the UK, you should apply as soon as possible.

Switching to settled status would only be unnecessary if you have been granted British citizenship, and attended your citizenship ceremony, by 30 June. Whilst it is still possible to apply for British citizenship with your permanent residence document, the current decision-making timescales and delays arranging ceremonies due to COVID-19 mean that it is unlikely you will receive a decision before 30 June.

Merely *applying* for citizenship does not give you any particular residence rights under UK immigration law. If you have applied for citizenship based on a permanent residence document you must still apply for settled status before 30 June or risk being unlawfully resident while awaiting your citizenship decision.

### What will happen to those who don't apply?

When the grace period finishes on 30 June 2021 there will undoubtedly be thousands of EEA nationals and non-EEA family members who have not yet applied to the EU Settlement Scheme. It remains to be seen whether the government plans to address the problem of potential widespread illegality. One solution could be to extend the validity of EU residence documents beyond 30 June to allow those affected more time to apply. But there is absolutely no guarantee of this happening and the government has insisted that the deadline is final.

So for any EEA nationals and their family members who wish to remain in the UK beyond 30 June and have not yet applied to the Settlement Scheme or for British citizenship, this is likely your final reminder — apply now or get ready to face the hostile environment.

[www.freemovement.org.uk/eu-residence-documents-are-no-longer-valid-after-30-june-2021/](https://www.freemovement.org.uk/eu-residence-documents-are-no-longer-valid-after-30-june-2021/)



# Welfare Policy in Scotland

Pete Wishart's letter to Justin Tomlinson and Justin Tomlinson's reply with regard to the Scottish Affairs Committee on 18 March on welfare policy in Scotland.



30 March 2021

Dear Justin and Will,

Thank you very much for appearing before the Scottish Affairs Committee on 18 March for our final evidence session into our inquiry into welfare policy in Scotland. I had a few questions on what you said to the Committee and hoped you could answer them.

1. In the session you said that you were worried that the people you are responsible for would receive less money as a result of the change in the assessment process that the Scottish Government are intending to introduce when they take over responsibility for disability benefits. You mentioned that with -to-face assessments (that uses contracted [Q206](#)) and that you had concerns that an increased reliance on supporting evidence from medical professionals (in particular GPs) could be problematic and limit what people are able to receive. Has the DWP done any research or are you referring to any particular data in coming to this conclusion? If so, can you share that research or data with the Committee?
2. In the session you said you had concerns that split payments in Universal Credit because of [Q199](#)). Again has the DWP done any research or are you referring to any particular data in coming to this conclusion? If so, can you share that research or data with the Committee?
3. During the session Margarita Morrison (Area Director, Work and Health Services Scotland, DWP) [Q181](#)) to help to safeguard vulnerable claimants and then share this data with agencies such as local authorities to discuss any further support these claimants require. Could you clarify how data can be mined and shared between agencies for issues of safeguarding but there are legal barriers around consent that limit other forms of data sharing to the Scottish Government and local authorities ([Q186](#) and [Q187](#))? Is there a protocol that exists between the DWP and local authorities or Scottish Government that enables data sharing behaviour on certain issues, but not on other issues?
4. Could you outline the existing consent process that is in operation on how a benefit?

In the session you and your colleagues also suggested that you would write to the Committee:

- with more information on Universal Credit migration and the number of people in Scotland who have been migrated from legacy benefits to Universal Credit unintentionally during the pandemic ([Q200](#)).
- We are also looking forward to seeing the accreditation on the DWP Charter that the DWP in Scotland received the day before the evidence session. Margarita Morrison (Area Director, Work and Health Services Scotland, DWP) spoke about this during the evidence session ([Q179](#)).
- We would also appreciate detailed information on the Flexible Support Fund and how it is operating in Scotland as it was mentioned in the evidence session too ([Q208](#)).

You also kindly showed an interest in seeing the survey that the Committee conducted as part of this inquiry. The findings of our survey can be found [here](#).

22 April 2021

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your letter dated 30 March. We would like to extend our appreciation for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee on 18 March.

We hope the information provided was helpful for your inquiry into welfare in Scotland. Please find your questions answered in turn below.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/5847/documents/66470/default/>

## REACH Online Course

Contact: Ann-Marie Morrison, Development Coach REACH Aberdeen

[annmarie.morrison@aberdeenfoyer.com](mailto:annmarie.morrison@aberdeenfoyer.com)

Since lockdown we have been delivering reach remotely, supplying clients with laptops, Wi-Fi, utensils for cooking, ingredients for cooking.

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- Tuesday - Class 10.30- lunch - Fun@1 - Fun photography - Class 2.30-4pm
- Wednesday Class- 10.30- lunch - Fun@1- Cooking on a budget -Class 2.30-4pm
- Thursday Class - 10.30- lunch - Fun@1 - Tai Chi
- Friday - Quiz @1


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IF you or anyone you know needs to make a change, stuck in a rut, struggling to get a job - come join us! IT'S FREE!

**R- RECOVERY  
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[www.aberdeenfoyer.com](http://www.aberdeenfoyer.com)

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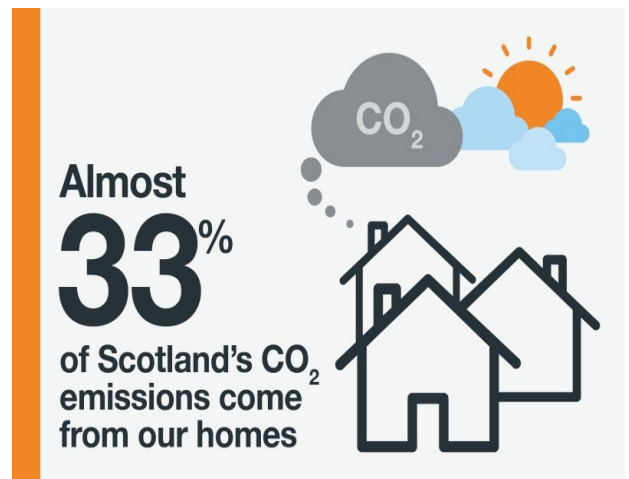


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