

Mon 12th July 2021 - Issue.46 (Fortnightly)

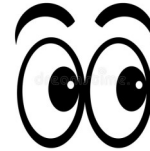
## Low Cost Broadband

BT have launched their new low cost social tariff for those on some means tested benefits, here is link which gives info on costs and which benefits you need to be on to qualify to apply:

To apply the person you are supporting will have to receive one of these benefits:

- ♦ Universal Credit (all claimants) / Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) / Employment and Support Allowance / Jobseeker's Allowance / Income Support

[www.bt.com/exp/broadband/home-essentials?](http://www.bt.com/exp/broadband/home-essentials?)



## Advice Forum Quarterly Meeting

Thurs 29th July 10 - 12:30 via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

For further details [EMAIL](#)

**TURN2US**  
FIGHTING UK POVERTY



## The Allotment Market Stall

JULY 16TH - OCTOBER 2ND 2021



Seaton Park -Fridays 10-1

Victoria Park- Fridays 10-1

Duthie Park- Fridays 10-1

Bonnymuir Green -Saturdays 10-2

Email: [theallotmentmarketstall@gmail.com](mailto:theallotmentmarketstall@gmail.com)  
[www.theallotmentmarketstall.org.uk](http://www.theallotmentmarketstall.org.uk)



Turn2us is keen to improve the support they offer around PIP, and they are looking for information to work out what kind of help would have the most impact for users of their website.

### PIP uptake

Do you know of anyone who has tried to produce research on unclaimed PIP?

Do you have statistics from PIP uptake campaigns that you could share with Turn2us to help them try to come up with an estimate of unclaimed PIP?

### Impact of support with initial PIP claims process

Do you have data you could share with Turn2us on the impact of helping with PIP form filling? In particular, any evidence of the impact of well-completed PIP form on the chances of getting a PIP award at the first stage in the decisions process.

If you are able to help, or if you have any questions about the project, please contact Anna Stevenson [anna.stevenson@turn2us.org.uk](mailto:anna.stevenson@turn2us.org.uk)

**Attendance Allowance claim form****Last updated 2 July 2021**

Use the Attendance Allowance claim form to apply for financial help for your personal care if you're disabled and State Pension age or older.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/attendance-allowance-claim-form#history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/attendance-allowance-claim-form#history)

## The government has issued a new Treasury Direction in relation to the fifth payment under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS).

Direction confirms that claims for SEISS 5 must be made on or before 30 September 2021

Following the [government's confirmation of a fifth SEISS grant in Budget 2021](#), a new Treasury Direction has been made under [section 76](#) of the *Coronavirus Act 2020* that clarifies that SEISS 5 modifies and extends the effect of the [SEISS](#) (as modified and extended by the [SEISS Extension](#), the [SEISS 3](#), and the [SEISS 4](#)) and accordingly the SEISS provisions that will apply.

In addition, the Schedule to the Direction advises that -

- a claim for SEISS 5 must be made on or before 30 September 2021;
- applicants must make a 'Financial Impact Declaration' that determines whether they are eligible for either a higher or lower grant amount based on how much their turnover has reduced in 2020/2021; and
- the higher grant amount will be the lower of £7,500 or 80 per cent of average trading profits over a three month period, and the lower amount will be £2,850 or 30 per cent of average trading profits over a three month period

NB - in [an update to SEISS guidance](#) also published today, HMRC advises that the online service to claim the fifth grant will be available from late July 2021 and individuals eligible to apply, based on their tax returns, will be contacted from mid-July either by email, letter or through the online service.

The [Further Treasury Direction made under Sections 76 of the Coronavirus Act 2020](#) is available from gov.uk

**440,000 tax credits customers still to renew claims**

Tax credits customers have until 31 July to renew their claims. The quickest way to renew is via GOV.UK.

Visit GOV.UK for more information on [renewing your tax credits](#).

[www.gov.uk/government/news/440000-tax-credits-customers-still-to-renew-claims](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/440000-tax-credits-customers-still-to-renew-claims)



Renew your  
tax credits  
by 31 July

**CPAG is looking for case studies**

Relating to the following situations for an upcoming report:

- ♦ When a person is receiving **carer's allowance** and the person that they are caring for dies, they continue to receive CA for eight weeks. If they make a claim for UC after the death (e.g. if the person being cared for was their partner and the legacy benefits were in their name), the award should include a carer element because, even though they are no longer caring for someone, they are receiving CA. CPAG is aware that people in this situation are not getting the carer element, even though their UC award is reduced by the CA.
- ♦ Where a **non-dependant** is living in a UC claimant's home, housing costs contributions are being applied to the housing costs element even if an exemption applies, for example if the non-dependant is receiving PIP. While this can be manually overridden, it is our understanding that this needs to be done every assessment period and so the UC claimant needs to spot incorrect payments and inform the DWP of this each month.

If you have clients who have been affected by either of these issues, please contact Lynsey Dalton at [LDalton@cpag.org.uk](mailto:LDalton@cpag.org.uk)

## New DWP memo ADM Memo 11/21 (Conversion of Transitional SDP Amount)

This memo gives guidance on changes to the UC transitional SDP amount<sup>1</sup> which took effect from 8.10.20.

Note: In this memo, references to the UC (TP) Regs are to the law as in force before 27.1.21, when the transitional SDP amount was replaced by the transitional SDP element

### Examples

#### Example 1

Sarah is entitled to PIP including the standard rate of the daily living component, as well as ESA(IR) and HB including the SDP.

On 16.4.19 she moves to a different LA area and claims UC from the same date.

The DM determines on 11.8.19 that Sarah's UC award should include the transitional SDP amount from 16.4.19. The payment is treated as a transitional element from 16.10.20.

Sarah was working for 15 hours a week when she claimed UC, and her earned income was more than the single administrative threshold. Her employment ended on 31.12.20, and for the assessment periods beginning on 16.12.20, 16.1.21 and 16.2.21 her earnings were less than the single administrative threshold. The transitional element is no longer included in Sarah's award from the assessment period beginning on 16.3.21.

#### Example 2

Reuben is entitled to PIP including the standard rate of the daily living component, as well as IS including the SDP, and CA. He is a carer for a non-dependent relative, but his caring role ends when the relative moves to a residential care home.

Reuben claims UC on 29.10.20, and his award includes the transitional SDP amount of £285, which is treated as a transitional element from the outset of the UC award.

Reuben's rent increases from £490 to £520 a month from 4.1.21. His housing costs increase by £30 from the assessment period beginning on 29.12.20, and the transitional element reduces to £255 from the same date.

#### Example 3

Lateefa is entitled to PIP including the enhanced rate of the daily living component, and is also entitled to UC including the transitional SDP amount, with the assessment period beginning on the 15th of the month. Lateefa has LCWRA, and has no housing costs.

Her UC award from 15.4.20 is

- £323.22 standard allowance (modified to £409.89 due to Coronavirus measures)
- £341.92 LCWRA element
- £120 transitional SDP amount
- Total: £785.14 (modified to £871.81).

From 15.4.21 the award includes

- £324.84 standard allowance (modified to £411.51 due to Coronavirus measures)
- £343.63 LCWRA element
- £116.67 transitional element
- Total: £785.14 (modified to £871.18).

The transitional SDP amount is treated as a transitional element from 15.10.20, and is reduced by £3.37, the amount by which Lateefa's award increased due to uprating. The modified amount of the standard allowance is not used in the calculation of the reduction.

### ADM Memo 11/21





## Adult Disability Payment: consultation response

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to the consultation and the report is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-80201-110-4>

Since the consultation, a number of changes have been made to how the eligibility criteria will be applied and explained to clients, including:

- Further improvements to the application form to include clear guidance on how the eligibility criteria is applied. This will ensure a client is supported in providing relevant information, guided by the reliability criteria, about how they feel after completing an activity and how long the impact lasts for.
- The introduction of bespoke consultation durations. Unlike DWP assessments, a consultation will not be a standard duration. Instead, a consultation will only cover the areas of the application form which are relevant to the client and on which the case manager has requested information to make a decision. Clients will therefore not be asked unnecessary or repeated questions nor will they be rushed in giving an account of how completing an activity makes them feel. Practitioners will take the time necessary to fully understand the impacts of a disability and/ or health condition on the client.
- The development of a prompt tool to ensure practitioners cover the reliability criteria and to help them ask questions relevant to a particular disability or health condition. This will further enable practitioners to understand the full impact of an individual's disability and/ or health condition.
- Undertaking work to consider how better to communicate how the eligibility criteria will be applied, including the removal of functional examinations and information on the role of case managers and practitioners, to provide assurances to those in receipt of disability benefits ahead of delivery.

We have proposed changes to the way decisions are made on an application for Disability Assistance. We intend to move away from a medical model of disability. This is why we have removed all functional examinations including physical examinations and the Mental State Examination. Instead, a practitioner will discuss with the client the full impact of completing an activity and of a disability or health condition on an individual. Guidance and tools will be available to the practitioner to ensure that environmental, cultural and social factors are taken into account in a fairer and more consistent application of the eligibility criteria.

We consider that, in order to protect the entitlement of individuals as we move from Personal Independence Payment to Adult Disability Payment, we consider it necessary to largely replicate the eligibility criteria as it currently exists for Personal Independence Payment. We are confident that experience of this criteria will be improved with many of the adjustments we have made, along with improved processes and guidance for case managers

We consider that, in order to protect individual's existing entitlement, we should not make considerable changes to the eligibility criteria before delivery of Adult Disability Payment. Any changes which widen eligibility risk the Department for Work and Pensions deciding that Adult Disability Payment is not a comparable benefit to Personal Independence Payment and withdrawing automatic entitlement to reserved payments from Scottish clients. They may decide therefore that Adult Disability Payment should not provide access to passported benefits and premiums which Personal Independence Payment currently ensures entitlement to such as Housing Benefit and Jobseeker's Allowance.



Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba



The Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

## MSPs consider plans to make second coronavirus-related Carers Allowance Supplement double payment in December 2021

rightsnet

Scotland's Social Justice and Social Security Committee has launched a consultation on the government's plans to double the Carers Allowance Supplement payment in December 2021.

Introducing its [consultation on the Carer's Allowance Supplement \(Scotland\) Bill](#), the Committee advises -

'The Covid-19 outbreak has had a serious impact on unpaid carers in Scotland. Last year the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 provided a 'double payment' of Carer's Allowance Supplement in June 2020. This covered the period from 1 April to 30 September 2020.

This Bill was created to allow another 'double payment' in December 2021.'

Commenting on the Bill and the Committee's call for views, Committee Convener Neil Gray said -

'This Bill wants to address some of the extra burden unpaid carers have taken on by increasing the level of the Carer's Support Allowance. But what impact would this have on those facing unimaginable hardship as a result of Covid?

We want to hear from those working closely with carers about what this will mean in practice and whether the additional payment is the most appropriate way to support unpaid carers. We also want to learn whether people think the Scottish Government should have more flexibility to change this payment in the future.'

For more information, see [Committee considers plans for additional payment for unpaid carers](#) from [parliament.scot](http://parliament.scot)

## Updated eligibility criteria for free school meals in the 2021-22 financial year.

Pupils will be eligible for free school meals in the forthcoming year if their parents or guardians are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £7,500
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £625

It has been necessary to raise the eligibility thresholds for people in receipt of both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit, and Universal Credit, to account for the rise in the National Living Wage which was introduced in April 2021. The rise in the eligibility thresholds will ensure that existing recipients of free school meals under these eligibility criteria will continue to be eligible in 2021-22.

Pupils who receive any of these benefits in their own right will also be eligible to receive free school meals. Local authorities also have the discretion to offer free school meals to families who are experiencing financial hardship in exceptional circumstances. Whilst examples of "exceptional circumstances" are not defined in legislation, they have previously included instances where families have [no re-course to public funds](#), normally due to their immigration status, or where a family is awaiting their first monthly Universal Credit award notice.

It is also confirmed that, in addition to the previously advised levels of funding in 2021-22 for the expansion of universal free school meals to primary 4 and primary 5 children which were set out in the letter issued on 14 May 2021 by the Deputy First Minister in his previous role as the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, the Scottish Government will continue to provide funding for the provision of universal free school meals to primary 1 to 3 children. In 2021-22 we will be providing £53.918 million for P1 to P3 universal free school meals, as part of the overall £128.609 million school meal [GAE line](#).



<http://citizensrightsproject.org>



CitzRights



EURightsProject



citzrights

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

## Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals



### Question for

Department for Work and Pensions

UIN 19715, tabled on 21 June 2021

### Question

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make it her policy to allow EU citizens who miss the deadline to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to claim benefits.

### Answered on 24 June 2021

Access to benefits for non-UK nationals depends on their immigration status. EEA and Swiss nationals, and their family members, resident in the UK at the end of the transition period need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to maintain entitlement to taxpayer funded benefits.

Those currently receiving benefits will not see their payments stop automatically from 1 July. It is, however, important that anyone who hasn't applied to the EUSS does so quickly, including if the HO contacts them following the deadline, to ensure that benefit payments don't stop.

The Government has been running a national communication campaign to make sure individuals are aware of the need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme ahead of the 30 June deadline. In addition to the national campaign, HM Government has been contacting DWP claimants to make sure that they are aware of the need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme ahead of the deadline to protect their rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19715>

## EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members



Home Office

### Version 12 .0

#### Will the 30 June deadline be extended?

The government has said emphatically no. All this would do is postpone the uncertainty for EU citizens.

#### What if I have not applied on time?

The government will accept late applications for those who have "reasonable grounds".

#### What are the reasonable grounds?

The government has issued a 204-page [guidance document](#) for the programme. These include children whose parents did not realise separate applications had to be made for under-18s; children who were in care or who have left local authority care after turning 18 and did not know they were EU citizens or did not know the local authority or a relevant guardian should have made an application for them.

Late applications can also be made by those who lack the physical or mental capacity to apply, including children and adults with dementia.

The Home Office is also expected to show leniency to older people who have lived in the country for decades but have not travelled and do not have an in-date passport or ID card to make the application, which must be on paper, in time.



freemovement

## Briefing: what happens to EU citizens who miss the settled status deadline?

Read FreeMovement's article [HERE](#)

## UK Immigration Justice Watch Blog

Primary Carers of British citizens: The Akinsanya litigation and persons with a Zambrano right to reside

Read the full article [HERE](#)

## EU Settlement Scheme update on future access to benefits following the End of the Grace Period

For more information, see the [DWP's letter to local authorities issued on 2 July 2021](#).





## Articles

### CAS Response to Scottish Government consultation on Adult Disability Payment

Citizens Advice Scotland recommends the draft regulations are amended to change or clarify a number of areas to improve the social security support provided to disabled adults in Scotland through Adult Disability Payment.

- ♦ The criteria for entitlement to the enhanced mobility component should be changed so that the relevant distance is increased from 20 metres to at least 50 metres.
- ♦ Changes are made to the 50% rule to take into account the ongoing impact of fluctuating conditions experienced by some disabled people.
- ♦ The past presence condition is removed to ensure that people who would be otherwise eligible to receive Adult Disability Payment can access their right to social security.
- ♦ CAS recommends it is made clear in the regulations that lifelong awards can be awarded where appropriate, with no requirement for review unless the individual requests a review.

citizens  
advice

[Download Publication](#)

### You could be entitled to free money – here's how



**Take control of your finances and maximise your income.**

**Furlough** ends in September and many people are facing uncertainty about their job.

Every year people miss out on billions of pounds of free money they are entitled to but unaware of, including **benefits**, grants and help for bills and debts, according to financial specialists IncomeMax.

[www.bigissue.com/latest/finance/free-money-benefits-calculator/](http://www.bigissue.com/latest/finance/free-money-benefits-calculator/)



Third Force News:  
the voice of Scotland's third sector

### Scottish Government warned it will miss child poverty targets without urgent action

**Pandemic has exacerbated problems for Scots on low incomes**

Scotland will fail to meet child poverty targets unless urgent action is taken, campaigners warn. Anti-poverty groups urged Holyrood ministers to take greater action to alleviate financial hardship on children after the pandemic with increasing stress being placed on families.

<https://tfn.scot/news/scottish-government-warned-it-will-miss-child-poverty-targets-without-urgent-action>

### ACVO are pleased to offer a year's free membership to existing and new members!

Find out how to claim your free membership in this edition of ACVO News.

This offer is valid until the end of 2021, and your full year's membership runs from when you sign up.

We are doing this as a way to say thank you and as an acknowledgement of the difficult year that third sector organisations have had coping with the pandemic. Your work and the impact that you have are what has helped hold people and communities together over the last 16 months.

[READ NOW](#)





## 2,000 more PIP claimants a month refused PIP awards.



As reported by Benefits And Work the latest quarterly PIP statistics suggest that almost 2,000 fewer new claimants a month are getting an award since assessments switched from face-to-face assessments to telephone assessments.

These statistics also report that record numbers of people are now applying for PIP, but less applicants in proportion than ever receives their PIP payment.

The figures show that the overall average success rate for new PIP claims since PIP was introduced is 55%. But this has averaged over the last six months that the success rate for new claims is just 48.5% since telephone assessments have been introduced.

Compare this to the same six months in 2019-20, before telephone assessments started, the success rate was 52%.

<https://thepoorsideof.life/2021/07/01/2000-pip-fewer-claimants-a-month-refused-pip-awards/>

## Are telephone and video appeal hearings working for Disabled people?: two new surveys launched

View DisabilityRightsUK article [HERE](#)

## BT cuts broadband bills in half for struggling households

'Social tariff' of £15 a month offered to up to 4.6m households on benefits or low incomes

[www.theguardian.com/money/2021/jul/03/bt-cuts-broadband-bills-in-half-for-struggling-households](http://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/jul/03/bt-cuts-broadband-bills-in-half-for-struggling-households)



## Survivors Welfare Advice Project (SWAP)

The Survivors Welfare Advice Project (SWAP) is a free nationwide service run by CPAG.

We advise professionals working with domestic abuse survivors on issues relating to their benefit claims and entitlement.

The project will also gather evidence of systematic problems with the welfare system faced by survivors to help inform our policy and legal work.

We have a helpline and email service available.

SWAP can advise on:

- ◆ Issues relating to joint claims
- ◆ 'Right to reside' and eligibility
- ◆ Managing benefits after fleeing domestic abuse
- ◆ Any other welfare rights matters

ADVICE BY EMAIL [swap@cpag.org.uk](mailto:swap@cpag.org.uk)

Along with your query please include your organisation's name, address (where possible) and telephone number, and your client's surname or case reference.

ADVICE BY PHONE 07983 946608

Open from 10am – 12pm and 2pm – 4pm (Monday – Friday).

<https://cpag.org.uk/welfare-rights/survivors-welfare-advice-project>







## Articles

### **Mandatory Reconsideration – a barrier to social security?** **By Zoë Shipton**



[www.brightblue.org.uk/mandatory-reconsideration/](http://www.brightblue.org.uk/mandatory-reconsideration/)

### **Let's finally get disability benefits right**

by Debbie Horne, Senior Policy Officer (Social Justice).

[www.cas.org.uk/news/lets-finally-get-disability-benefits-right](http://www.cas.org.uk/news/lets-finally-get-disability-benefits-right)

**citizens  
advice  
scotland**

### **Half a million people in Scotland face income shock with Universal Credit cut**

Citizens Advice Scotland has responded to news that Universal Credit is to be cut.

CAS Policy Officer David Scott said:

"The £20 per week increase to Universal Credit at the start of the pandemic was the right move, and helped thousands of people keep their heads above water.

"Cutting the payment in the autumn will push thousands of people into crisis. It will also mean the benefit would be worth less in real terms in 2021 than it was when it was first introduced in 2013.

"With furlough winding down and the risk of job losses clear, this is the wrong time to reduce the value of Universal Credit, which close to half a million people in Scotland rely on.

"It also won't help our economy, removing around half a billion pounds worth of spending power from people just when we need our economy to grow.

"There's still time to cancel this cut, and ensure people get the support they need."

**Previous CAS research** has found that cutting Universal Credit by £20 per week would see the benefit with less than when it was introduced in 2013.

[www.cas.org.uk/news/half-million-people-scotland-face-income-shock-universal-credit-cut](http://www.cas.org.uk/news/half-million-people-scotland-face-income-shock-universal-credit-cut)

**citizens  
advice  
scotland**

### **Child disability payment to continue for 13 weeks if any child or young person relocates from Scotland to another part of the UK**



**The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 (Disability Assistance for Children and Young People) (Consequential Modifications) Order 2021**

Child disability payment is only available to children and young people residing in Scotland.

However, the Scottish Government will continue to make payment of child disability payment to any child or young person who relocates from Scotland to another part of the United Kingdom for a period of 13 weeks, from the date of the move, to allow for an application for disability living allowance to be processed.

[SI.No.786/2021](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) is available from [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

### **Social Security Advisory Committee raises concerns about DWP's approach to reintroducing the MIF to universal credit**

The **correspondence between the SSAC and the Minister for Employment** is available from [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

**rightsnet**



## Eight ways to start saving successfully



Ever faced a financial emergency like the boiler breaking down but not had the funds at hand to get it started? Or have you wanted to save for something big but struggled to get going?

Help is at hand. Here are eight ways on how to start saving and get into the savings habit:

[www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/blog/eight-ways-to-start-saving-successfully](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/blog/eight-ways-to-start-saving-successfully)

## New charity debt service to help struggling Scots

A charity has launched a free national debt advice service for people across Scotland.

The [moneyadvice.scot](http://moneyadvice.scot) service from Advice Direct Scotland is for anyone struggling to meet their current financial commitments.

It comes after a new opinion poll by Survation revealed that more than a third of Scots are worried about paying their monthly bills over the next year.

The poll also found that 32% of Scots are concerned about being able to afford living costs such as food and clothing.

The new service provides free information and support on a wide range of debt-related issues and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

<https://tfn.scot/news/new-charity-debt-service-to-help-struggling-scots>

## Give all primary school children a financial education

All children across the UK should be taught basic money skills in primary school by 2030, a cross-party group of MPs have said in a new report published today. This would include adding financial education to the primary national curriculum, as is already the case for secondary schools.

The report by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Financial Education for Young People – which was contributed to by MoneySavingExpert.com founder Martin Lewis – calls on the Government to set a target to ensure every primary school-aged child gets a "high-quality, effective and sustainable" financial education by the end of the decade, and to provide the investment and prioritisation needed to make this happen.

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2021/07/primary-financial-education-report/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2021/07/primary-financial-education-report/)



## Supreme court rejects challenge to universal credit 'two-child limit'

April 2017 rule restricts child tax credit and universal credit to first two children, with exceptions

The UK's highest court has rejected a challenge over the government's "two-child limit" for welfare payments.

The rule, which came into force in April 2017, restricts child tax credit and universal credit to the first two children in a family, with a few exceptions.

At a hearing in October last year, a panel of seven supreme court justices were asked to decide whether the limit was compatible with human rights laws – including the rights to respect for private and family life, to found a family and to freedom from discrimination – as the policy disproportionately affects women.

The challenge was brought by two lone mothers and their children – who the court ordered cannot be identified – supported by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), but was brought on behalf of all those affected by the policy.

Full article [HERE](#)

# EU Settlement Scheme update on future access to benefits following the End of the Grace Period



Further to my recent letter dated 18 June 2021 to all Revenues and Benefits managers, this letter provides an update on the European Settlement Scheme (EUSS). It also includes a set of questions and answers (see Annex A)

- The **Home Office European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS)** Grace Period ended on 30 June 2021. This scheme does not apply to Irish nationals who are treated the same as UK citizens.
- In order to continue to have the right to live and work in the UK, including access to benefits and services, European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals need to apply for/have been granted Settled Status (Indefinite Leave to Remain) or PreSettled Status (Leave to Remain).
- EEA and Swiss nationals who have not applied for/been granted Settled or PreSettled Status will be deemed not to qualify for benefits and they will become Persons Without Immigration Status after 30 June 2021 (end of the Grace Period).
- Late applications for the **EUSS** after 30 June 2021 will be considered by the Home Office where there is a good cause for late application.
- HM Treasury can support existing Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) claimants who have not applied to the EUSS by the end of the Grace Period for a short period. This is called extra statutory payment.
- The extra statutory payment allows benefit payment to continue for existing claimants for a short period of time, after the end of the Grace Period, whilst DWP does some final signposting.

## New Claims to Housing Benefit made from EEA/Swiss Nationals from 1 July 2021

- EEA/Swiss nationals must have an Immigration Status or have applied for EUSS to make a Housing Benefit (HB) claim where the date of claim is 1 July 2021 or later.
- Existing Habitual Residency Tests rules will apply where appropriate.

## Existing claimants - Data matching exercise

- In March 2021, the Home Office ran a scan of current HB claimants against Home Office data to identify any EEA and Swiss nationals who do not have an EUSS status.
- Letters were then issued through automatic mailing between 14 May 2021 to 28 May 2021 to those claimants informing them of the need to apply for a status before the end of the Grace Period.
- On 1 July 2021, a further data match exercise was conducted by the Home Office. The Home Office will now write to all EEA and Swiss nationals who have still not applied for their EUSS status and prompt the customer to urgently contact the Home Office and apply or risk their benefit payments being stopped.
- The data matching letters are due to be issued mid-July 2021 by automatic mailing to all DWP and HB claimants who have not applied to EUSS.

## DWP additional signposting

- DWP will issue a final letter to all DWP and HB claimants in September 2021 to ensure that they understand the requirement to make a late application for EUSS.
- The claimant will also be advised that their benefit will be disallowed where no EUSS application is made.
- If there is still no application made within one month, then benefits will be suspended after any 'business as usual' processes looking at potential vulnerability are considered.
- Following suspension, the claimant will have a further month to make an application for EUSS.
- If a claimant subsequently applies for EUSS within this month then extra statutory payments can continue until a final immigration decision is made.
- If the claimant does not apply for EUSS within this month then extra statutory payments will cease and their claim will be terminated as they will be treated as a Person Subject to Immigration Control.
- If a claimant appeals against an EUSS decision they can continue to receive extra statutory payments until the outcome of the appeal is known.
- We are currently working to allow LA access to the "Get Home Office Data" feature in Searchlight, we will provide a further update on the progress of this work as soon as we have it.

## Additional customer support

The Home Office have put in place supportive options for applicants to the EUSS as below:

### Helpline

- ♦ EUSS helpline where customers can apply and have questions answered: Tel: 0300 123 7379. (Open: Mon to Fri, excluding bank holidays, 8am to 8pm. Saturday and Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm) **[Find out about call charges.](#)**

### Digital Access Centres

The Home Office is partnering with digital centres to support digitally excluded people. **[Get help with your online](#)**

### Home Office application

- ♦ 'We Are Digital' - **[visa@we-are-digital.co.uk](https://www.visa@we-are-digital.co.uk)** Telephone: 03333 445 675, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm. **[Find out about call charges](#)**

### Community partners

- ♦ There is a contracted support service to provide 121 support in applying. The service is run by local authorities, charities and community groups around the UK. A post code checker helps applicants find their nearest centre. **[Get help applying to the EUSS](#)**

### EU language translations

- ♦ **[EUSS translated information materials](#)** support EU, EEA and Swiss nationals to apply to the EUSS. They are provided in 26 EU languages, including Welsh and Irish.

If you have any queries please email **[lawelfare.lalaisonteam@dpw.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.lalaisonteam@dpw.gov.uk)**



## CPAG is looking for UC claimants to participate in research

CPAG is currently undertaking two research projects about universal credit (UC) and is looking to speak to UC claimants about their experiences. Research participants will receive a £25 voucher as a thank you for taking part.

### Universal credit and mental health

CPAG is interested in exploring how the DWP treats people with mental health issues who claim UC. In particular, how the DWP meets its Equality Act duties to make reasonable adjustments during the claim process and for ongoing awards. The researchers are looking for UC claimants with mental health issues to take part in the research project but claimants don't need to have had a formal mental health diagnosis.

### **For claimants**

Taking part would mean talking on the phone about yourself, your circumstances and your experiences of UC. The phone call would probably take between half an hour and an hour. This could also take place on Zoom / similar if you prefer. CPAG's researchers can arrange a convenient time to talk. CPAG may ask if you would agree for them to ask the DWP for your claim records. This is to see whether it has been recorded that you have been asked whether you require any preferred ways of communicating, through making a reasonable adjustment. This is optional, and you may choose to take part without agreeing to request your records.

CPAG is able to offer a £25 voucher for Amazon or Sainsbury's as a way of saying thank you for taking part.

[Here is a link to the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form.](#)

### Computer Says 'No!': Access to justice and digitalisation in universal credit

CPAG is interested in how claiming and maintaining a benefit online affects claimants' rights and access to justice. They would like to talk to people about their experience of the claims process, the online account and journal. (They would also be interested in speaking to people who claimed and manage their UC over the telephone or in person at the Jobcentre rather than online.) This research follows on from [two earlier Computer Says 'No!' reports](#).

### **For claimants**

Taking part would involve either a Zoom session or a phone call to talk to you about your experience of claiming universal credit. CPAG is particularly interested in when you first claimed UC, the ongoing management of your award and any issues or disputes you may have had. The session will last no more than an hour. There is the option to do further sessions and you will be given a £25 High Street Voucher (which can be spent at various shops) for each session as a thank you for your time. CPAG is keen to speak to people who have had both positive and negative experiences of claiming universal credit - for many people it may be a mixture of both.

Please contact Rosie Mears by emailing [ramears@cpag.org.uk](mailto:ramears@cpag.org.uk) if you would like further information or are interested in taking part in either of the research projects.



## Survey on remote tribunals

Welfare rights charity IPR ([Islington People's Rights](#)) is carrying out some research about disabled people and welfare benefits tribunals. Tribunals held by phone or video conferencing technology are here to stay, so the research aims to find out how to make them work best for disabled people, in order to make recommendations to government and spread best practice amongst advisers.

IPR have launched 2 short online surveys, one for people challenging welfare benefits decisions through the First Tier Tribunal, and one for the advisers who support them.

**Disabled people** who have taken part in a First Tier Tribunal during 2021, whether it was held remotely or in person, and whether or not they had representation, can fill in this survey: [https://bit.ly/Tribunal\\_Clients\\_Survey](https://bit.ly/Tribunal_Clients_Survey)

**Advisers** who have supported one or more disabled people at a First Tier Tribunal can fill in this survey: [https://bit.ly/Tribunal\\_Advisers\\_Survey](https://bit.ly/Tribunal_Advisers_Survey)

As well as filling in the advisers survey themselves, IPR would really appreciate it if advisers could encourage their disabled clients to fill in the client survey, and help them if necessary (for example, reading the questions out and ticking the boxes on their behalf). There is also a [pdf available to print](#) from IPR's website for disabled people who would prefer to fill the survey in by hand.

### More information about the project

Please also spread the word among your networks - IPR are looking for as many responses as possible from across the UK.

The deadline is the end of July. If you have any queries, or would like to get more involved in the research project, please contact Lindsay at IPR at [Social.Policy@ipradvice.org.uk](mailto:Social.Policy@ipradvice.org.uk)

[www.ipradvice.org.uk/ipr-justice/](http://www.ipradvice.org.uk/ipr-justice/)

# EU Settlement Scheme update on future access to benefits following the End of the Grace Period

## Annex A Questions and answers - Post Grace period



**Q1.** I am a British/Irish citizen. Do I need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme?

**A1.** No. If you are a British or Irish citizen, you do not need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Q2.** I have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme but have not yet been given a decision. Can I make a claim to benefits?

**A2.** Yes. You can make a new claim for benefit as long as the application to EUSS was made on or before 30 June 2021. You will be paid the benefit if you meet the eligibility criteria.

**Q3.** I have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme but have not yet been given a decision. Can I carry on getting benefits?

**A3.** Yes. If you are getting benefits and have already applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, your benefits will carry on being paid while you are waiting for the outcome of your application.

**Q4.** I have been given an immigration status by the Home Office under the EU Settlement Scheme. Do I need to tell you?

**A4.** You do not need to let us know. If we need more information about your immigration status, we will contact you.

**Q5.** I have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme and have not been given an immigration status? Am I able to get benefits?

**A5.** No. If you do not have an immigration status you cannot get UK benefits. If you disagree with the Home Office decision, please contact the EU Settlement Resolution Centre as soon you can on 0300 123 7379.

**Q6.** I have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme and have not been given an immigration status. I am now appealing the decision. Am I able to get benefits?

**A6:** Yes. If you are already getting benefits and your appeal to the EU Settlement Scheme is in progress, your benefits will carry on being paid while a decision is being made as long as the application to EUSS was made on or before 30 June 2021.

**Q7.** I have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme and have not been given an immigration status. I am now appealing the decision. Can I make a new claim for benefits?

**A7.** Yes. You can make a new claim for benefit as long as the application to EUSS was made on or before 30 June 2021. You will be paid the benefit if you meet the eligibility criteria.

**Q8.** I made an application to the EU Settlement Scheme but was not given an immigration status. I have no money. What can I do?

**A8.** You cannot get UK benefits or services if you do not have an immigration status. If you think the Home Office decision about your status should be different you may be able to apply again or appeal the decision. Contact the EU Settlement Resolution Centre as soon you can on 0300 123 7379. If this decision causes you hardship you can contact a local support organisation (e.g. Citizens advice Bureau or Welfare rights) who can provide independent help and support. You can find their details online, at your local library or in the telephone directory. If you need help managing your money, please contact the Money Advice Service as soon as you can. They offer free independent advice about how to make the best of your money, including budgeting, savings and dealing with debt. To find out more, go to [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)

**Q9.** I have appealed against my EU Settlement Scheme decision and have won. I am getting multiple benefits including Housing Benefit. Do I need to tell each benefit separately?

**A9.** You do not need to let us know. If we need more information about your immigration status, we will contact you.

**Q10.** I first arrived in the UK before 1 January 1973 and I am protected by the 1971 Immigration Act and may carry on getting benefits, but I have no evidence of this from the Home Office. What should I do?

**A10.** If you arrived in the UK before 1 January 1973 you will need to contact the Home Office as they may be able to give you evidence. If they cannot do this, then you may need to apply for Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme. You can contact the EU Settlement Resolution Centre on 0300 123 7379. Your benefits will carry on while your application is being considered.

**Q11.** I have Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. Do I need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme?

**A11.** If you have indefinite leave to remain then you do not need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. You may need to provide evidence of your indefinite leave. You will usually have a stamp in your passport or a letter from the Home Office saying this. If you do not have this, you will need to contact the Home Office on 0300 123 7379.

**Q12.** I have an immigration status but I don't have any evidence. what should I do?

**A12.** You will need to contact the Home Office and they will tell you what you can do next. You can contact the EU Settlement Resolution Centre on **0300 123 7379**

**Q13.** I haven't applied to the EU Settlement Scheme yet. Is it too late?

**A13:** No. The deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June, but you may still be able to make a late application. You must apply straight away. To apply for the EU Settlement Scheme please visit [gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://gov.uk/eusettlementscheme) or call **0300 123 7379**. Family members living in the UK who are non-EEA nationals may also be able to make a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme. They should apply even if they have a Biometric Residence Card (BRC).

**Q14.** I am already getting benefits and haven't applied to the EU Settlement Scheme/Home Office. Do I still need to apply?

**A14.** Yes. If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national and are getting benefits but have not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, you must make a late application straight away. You will need to have an immigration status from the Home Office to carry on getting UK benefits and other public services. To apply for the EU Settlement Scheme please visit [gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://gov.uk/eusettlementscheme) or call 0300 123 7379.