

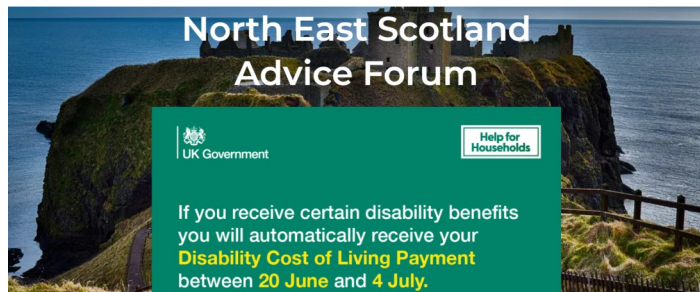
North East Scotland Advice Forum is a local network for people working in advice services to share information and experiences. The Forum meets quarterly throughout the year.

July 2023 Newsletter

If you would like an article included in the next bulletin, please contact admin@nesaf.co.uk

North East Scotland
Bringing together advisers and information providers.

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Register to add and comment on our Message Boards at www.nesaf.co.uk/wp-login.php?action=register

One month left to renew for more than 300,000 tax credits customers

Tax credits customers have a month to renew their claim or risk having their payments stopped, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has warned.

The annual deadline is 31 July and more than 300,000 customers who received a renewal pack with a red line across the first page and the words 'reply now' still need to confirm their circumstances for the current tax year to continue receiving payments.

Full article [HERE](#)

and £1,630 for two or more children. This is a rise of 47% from the previous limits of £646 for one child or £1,108 for two or more children.

At the same time, the Government will help eligible parents cover the costs for the first month's childcare when they enter work or significantly increase their hours, removing one of the most significant barriers to parents working and helping to grow the economy.



Those parents will also receive up to 85% of their childcare costs back before their next month's bills are due – meaning they should have money to pay one month in advance going forward.

www.gov.uk/government/news/massive-boost-to-childcare-payments-marks-first-step-in-largest-ever-expansion-of-childcare

Benefit calculator

Our benefits calculator will help you Find out what benefits you can claim.

If you are affected by Coronavirus please go through the calculator and we will tell you about your entitlements. Also see our guide To [benefits for people affected by Coronavirus](#).

The calculator is free to use, and the details you provide are anonymous.

Before you start, make sure you have information about your savings, income, pensions and existing benefits (for you and your partner).

If you run out of time, you can save your calculation and come back to it later, and pick up right where you left off.

⇒ Should take 10 minutes to complete

⇒ Please complete all fields with an asterisk(*)

[START >>>](#)

Universal Credit's maximum childcare payments will rise nearly 50%

From 28th June the Department for Work and Pensions will raise the amount that parents in Great Britain can claim back monthly for their childcare costs on Universal Credit **up to £951 for one child**

Guidance: Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024

Guidance on getting extra payments to help with the cost of living if you're entitled to certain benefits or tax credits. Last updated 21 June 2023

Help with the cost of living

Low income benefits and tax credits Cost of Living Payment

- You may be entitled to up to 3 Cost of Living Payments of £301, £300 and £299 if you get any of the following benefits or tax credits on certain dates

Find out how to report a missing £301 Cost of Living Payment for a low income benefit or tax credits

- The £301 payment for people on low income benefits and tax credits was paid between **25 April 2023 and 17 May 2023** for most people. If you think you should have had the £301 payment, but you cannot see it in your bank, building society or credit union account, you can report a missing Cost of Living Payment. If you have already reported a missing payment, you do not need report it again. We will reply to you as soon as we can.

Disability Cost of Living Payment

- Most people will be paid the £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment automatically between **20 June 2023 and 4 July 2023**.

Pensioner Cost of Living Payment

- If you're entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2023 to 2024, you will get an extra £150 or £300 paid with your normal payment from November 2023.
- The full amount of Winter Fuel Payment (including the Pensioner Cost of Living Payment) you will get for winter 2023 to 2024 depends on when you were born and your circumstances during the qualifying dates.
- You can get a Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2023 to 2024 if you were born before 25 September 1957.
- This guidance will be updated with the qualifying dates for the payment when they are published. You will be sent a letter in October or November telling you how much Winter Fuel Payment you'll get if you're eligible.

Other help

- Find out what other [benefits and financial support you might be able to get to help with your living costs](#).
- Use an independent [benefits calculator](#) to find out what benefits you could get.
- You may be able to get other kinds of support, including a [Crisis Grant or Community Care Grant](#) in Scotland

Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024 – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The rules for couples receiving Transitional SDP element in their UC Couple are changing from June 2023

The rules are being changed by [The Social Security and Universal Credit \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2023](#).

From 29th June 2023, a couple can only be entitled to the **higher transitional SDP rate** so long as no-one receives Carers Allowance or gets the carer element of UC for either of them in their first assessment period.

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2023/543

Chancellor agrees new support measures for mortgage holders

New mortgage charter providing support for residential mortgage customers. These are:

- Anyone worried about their mortgage repayments can call their lender for information and support, without any impact on their credit score and we would encourage you to contact your bank who are there to help.
- Customers won't be forced to have their homes repossessed within 12 months from their first missed payment.
- Customers approaching the end of a fixed rate deal will be offered the chance to lock in a deal up to six months ahead. They will also be able to apply for a better deal right up until their new term starts, if one is available.
- A new agreement between lenders, the FCA and the government permitting customers to switch to an interest-only mortgage for six months, or extend their mortgage term to reduce their monthly payments and switch back to their original term within the first six months, if they choose to. Both options can be taken without a new affordability check or affecting their credit score.
- Support for customers who are up-to-date with payments to switch to a new mortgage deal at the end of their existing fixed rate deal without another affordability check.
- Providing well-timed information to help customers plan ahead should their current rate be due to end.
- Offer tailored support for anyone struggling and deploy highly trained staff to help customers. This could mean extending their term to reduce their payments, offering a switch to interest only payments, but also a range of other options like a temporary payment deferral or part interest-part repayment. The right option will depend on the customer's circumstances.



[Chancellor agrees new support measures for mortgage holders – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-agrees-new-support-measures-for-mortgage-holders)

ADM 13/23: UC Miscellaneous Amendments 2023

This memo gives guidance on the [SS and UC \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2023](#), which come into force on 29.6.23

Contents

- When the LCWRA element is included
- Time for claiming
- Amount of transitional SDP element: joint claimants
- Meaning of carer

[ADM 13/23: UC Miscellaneous Amendments 2023](#)



Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

This publication provides information on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) in Scotland over the twelve-month period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Scottish Government's total **published budget** for DHPs in 2022-23 was £79.0 million. This includes two funding streams for DHPs: "Bedroom Tax Mitigation" (£68.1 million) and "Other DHPs" (£10.9 million). The Bedroom Tax is also known as the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy (RSRS).

The distribution of funding has been agreed by local authority leaders (as represented by CoSLA) and the Scottish Government (**Table 1 and figure below**) as follows:

- to date £70.0 million of funding has been provided.
- tranche 1 funding included "Other DHPs" funding for 2022/23 (£10.9 million) and 80% of the estimated cost of "Bedroom Tax Mitigation" (£54.5 million).
- an additional £2.6 million has been made available from the **Emergency Budget Review** of November 2022, 80% of which (£2.1 million) has been provided to mitigate the benefit cap as fully as possible.
- an additional £2.5 million to assist with cost of living pressures has been paid direct in to local authorities' "Other DHP" funds to use at their discretion.
- the remaining 20% of the estimated cost of "Bedroom Tax Mitigation" (£13.6 million), and the remaining 20% of the estimated cost of the 'Benefit Cap Mitigation', (£520,000) has been held back to reimburse local authorities for spending over and above Tranche 1.

For more information about the funding methodology, see the **Background Note**.

Full details - www.gov.scot/publications/discretionary-housing-payments-in-scotland-1-april-2022-to-31-march-2023/pages/funding-for-2022-23/

Tackling food insecurity

New plan will strengthen access to cash in a crisis.

A commitment to a 'cash-first' approach to tackling food insecurity is at the heart of a new plan to reduce the need for people to turn to food banks.

The plan, which is the first of its kind in the UK and is underpinned by human rights, sets out nine actions which will be taken over the next three years to improve responses to food insecurity.

Actions include establishing a new £1.8 million Cash-First Programme to help reduce the demand for emergency food parcels by improving urgent access to cash in crisis and associated support.

The Scottish Government will work with councils, the third sector and community food initiatives to help prevent future need by integrating money advice and wider support into crisis responses.

The plan also includes up to £623,000 funding for the British Red Cross to continue a Scottish Crisis Fund, which provides people at risk of destitution – including survivors of domestic abuse, and those no recourse to public funds – with emergency grants to purchase the food and other essentials.

Cash-First: Towards ending the need for food banks in Scotland

Full article
www.gov.scot/news/tackling-food-insecurity-2/





Social Security Scotland
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Updates to ADP and CDP application forms (part 2/combined)

We've updated the content of the application forms. The changes are:

- Swapping the order of the questions about supporting information and contacts.
 - * Previously we asked for contact details for people who could provide supporting information on behalf of the client before asking for what supporting information would be sent along with the application. In the new version, we ask for supporting information before we ask for contacts. In user research we found that this reframed people's understanding of the importance of supporting information and prioritised it over providing contacts.
- Changing the question asking for the client's GP contact details. We now ask for any professional involved in the client's care who can confirm their condition or disability and the impact it has on their daily life. Often the GP is not the best person to do this as they may not have much contact with the client. We found in user research that this change prompted participants to think of other professionals who could provide this information.
- Adding a question to ask for a contact from the client's wider support network. This is someone who knows the client well enough to describe the impact of their condition or disability on their daily life. This could be someone like a friend, relative or unpaid carer. In user research we found that participants would provide a contact like this and would discuss it with that contact before adding their details to the form.
- Adding more examples of supporting information. To show the client they may already have these documents at home.
- Adding more examples of the types of professionals. To show the client that a professional other than a GP can provide supporting information.

In addition, we've added stronger messaging about encouraging people to send supporting information themselves, for example:

Get in touch if you're not sure what you can use as supporting information. We can help you work out if you can use documents that you already have at home.

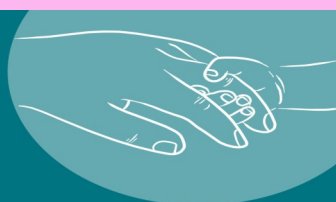
Contact us:

- call us free on 0800 182 2222
- [see other ways to contact us](#), including web chat (opens in a new tab)

If you need to contact us from outside the UK please call +44 (0)138 2931 000. This call is not free but you can ask us to call you back. Check with your phone provider for details of charges.

If you want us to gather supporting information for you, we can get in touch with your contacts and ask them to send it to us. Tell us on the next page if you'd like us to do this.

It's quicker if you can send us supporting information yourself.



Child Disability Payment
Extra money to help with the costs of caring for a child with a disability



Adult Disability Payment



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Plans to extend protections for tenants

Published 01 June 2023

Minister confirms intention to keep rent cap in place for a final six months.

Emergency measures to protect tenants during the cost of living crisis, including the private rent cap and additional eviction protections, will be extended for a further six months if approved by Parliament.



Tenants' Rights Minister Patrick Harvie has confirmed proposals to keep the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) Act measures in place until 31 March 2024 at the latest. This would mean:

- Most in-tenancy private rent increases would continue to be capped at 3%
- Alternatively, private landlords could apply for increases of up to 6% to help cover certain increases in costs in a specified time period where these costs can be evidenced
- Enforcement of evictions would continue to be paused for six months for most tenants, except in a number of specified circumstances
- Increased damages for unlawful evictions of up to 36 months' worth of rent would continue to be applicable

Social rented sector tenants are protected by the voluntary agreement reached with social landlords on below-inflation rent increases for this financial year.

Background

The Minister for Tenants' Rights Patrick Harvie has this afternoon, set out to [Parliament](#) the Scottish Government's proposals to extend the [Cost of Living \(Tenant Protection\) Act](#) 2022 beyond 30 September.

Regulations to extend the Act have now been laid and can be viewed [here](#).

The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Act) was introduced in October 2022 to protect tenants against the impact of rising household costs. In March 2023, the Scottish Parliament voted to extend the measures to 30 September, with the option to extend again for a final six-month period to 31 March 2024.

The evictions moratorium pauses enforcement of most eviction action for up to six months, except in a number of specified circumstances. The eviction protections apply to the private and social rented sectors, and purpose-built student accommodation and halls of residence.

There is a 3% cap on in tenancy rent increase for most private sector tenancies. Where a tenant has received a rent increase notice from their landlord, they can apply to Rent Service Scotland (RSS) to verify that the rent increase is within the permitted 3% rent cap rate.

Landlords can alternatively apply to Rent Service Scotland (RSS) to increase rent to partially cover specific costs including increased mortgage interest payments on the property they are letting, an increase in landlords' insurance or increases in service charges paid as part of a tenancy, subject to an overall limit. This limit is currently set at 6% of total rent.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/plans-to-extend-protections-for-tenants/>



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Social Security Scotland have changed the way they deliver Best Start Grant School Age Payment

Date published: 1 June 2023

Eligible families now receive payment automatically

Best Start Grant School Age Payment will be paid from **Thursday 1 June 2023**.

Parents, carers and guardians who get Universal Credit, tax credits or other qualifying benefits and who have a child born between **1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019** are being urged to check whether they should apply for Best Start Grant School Age Payment or if they now get the payment automatically.

Best Start Grant School Age Payment is a payment of £294.70 per child. It helps with the costs of preparing for school. You are eligible at the point your child is first old enough to start primary school. It is part of the five family payments people may be able to get, along with Scottish Child Payment.

If someone is already getting Scottish Child Payment and they are eligible for Best Start Grant School Age Payment, this will be paid automatically when their child is first old enough to start primary school. We will notify clients by text message when we are checking eligibility for the Best Start Grants and, if someone is eligible, we will write to advise them of the payment.

The move to automatic awards will mean less paperwork for tens of thousands of families and ensures that families receive the support they're entitled to.

However, a small number of people who receive Housing Benefit are eligible for School Age Payment but not Scottish Child Payment. They must apply for School Age Payment from June 1 before the window closes on 29 February 2024.

Similarly, those who have chosen not to apply for Scottish Child Payment, and those who have opted out of automatic payments, should apply for School Age Payment from June 1.

If you work with people who may be eligible, please help promote Best Start Grant School Age Payment by sharing across your networks and channels.

Parents, carers and guardians can get more information and apply at mygov.scot or by calling 0800 182 2222.

www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/news-events/news/we-have-changed-the-way-that-we-deliver-best-start-grant-school-age-payment

Best Start Grant



Pregnancy and Baby Payment
£600 for a first child and £300 for other children to help with expenses in pregnancy or having a new child



Early Learning Payment
£250 to help with costs during early years



School Age Payment
£250 to help with costs of preparing for school





Social Security Scotland
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Third sector to get fee for supporting people applying for disability benefits

Published 02 June 2023

Supporting information from third sector organisations to be given equal consideration.

Third sector organisations are to be paid a fee for helping provide supporting information for people applying for Child Disability Payment or Adult Disability Payment. The £33.50 fee will be paid when they are asked by Social Security Scotland to complete a supporting information request form.

People who are applying for disability benefits who find it difficult or face barriers gathering supporting information themselves will be able to name organisations to provide this for them.

These can include third sector organisations that are helping them in their day-to-day lives, such as those offering social care or support during an illness. Collecting supporting information on behalf of people is a key difference in how people are encouraged and supported to apply for Scottish Government disability benefits.

Supporting information request forms are completed to help understand how a person's health condition or disability affects their lives and what support they need. As well as information from health and social care professions, information could also come from charities and third sector organisations who support disabled people.

The process of requesting and giving equal consideration to supporting information from third sector organisations is not offered by the Department for Work and Pensions in England and Wales and is an example of how Social Security Scotland is doing things differently to better support people applying for benefits.

If disabled people need additional help to apply for Scottish Government benefits the free and independent Advocacy Service, provided by VoiceAbility, helps people throughout the whole of the process, from the point of application, through to any request for redetermination and appeal.

Background

Social Security Scotland pay a fee for the supporting information form when they have requested the completion of a form in writing from an organisation.

Independent GPs, and those employed by independent GP practices, also get a fee when they are asked to provide information.

Clients can approach third sector organisations to provide supporting information on their behalf. Organisations will not be paid a fee unless Social Security Scotland directly request the information.

Third sector organisations who have already been asked to provide supporting information for clients receiving Child Disability Payment or Adult Disability Payment before the fee payments process was in place will be able to have their payments backdated.

Guidance will be provided to any third sector organisation who is asked by to provide supporting information, with information also available on [Social Security Scotland's website](https://www.gov.scot/news/third-sector-to-get-fee-for-supporting-people-applying-for-scottish-government-disability-benefits/).

If someone applying for disability benefits has supporting information available, they are encouraged provide it with their application, Examples of supporting information are medical reports, a social care assessment, a prescription list or test results.

www.gov.scot/news/third-sector-to-get-fee-for-supporting-people-applying-for-scottish-government-disability-benefits/



Articles

DWP accused of 'denying people their rights' after rejecting 90% of disability benefit appeals



The government is rejecting a record high of almost 90% of disability benefit appeals, sparking accusations it is ignoring court rulings in order to take a harder line on claimants.

The most recent figures covering England and Wales show the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is rejecting 89% of appeals relating to initial applications for the personal independence payment (PIP) disability benefit.

PIP is designed to help mostly working-age people, both in and out of work, with additional living costs arising from long-term disabilities and mental health conditions.

People who are unhappy with the decision must ask the DWP to conduct a review – a process called mandatory reconsideration (MR).

But the most recent government data, covering the third quarter of 2022, shows the DWP changing its decision in just 11% of MRs – down from more than 40% in early 2021, and the lowest proportion since PIP was launched a decade ago. In the other 89% of cases, the decision was left unaltered.

If an MR is unsuccessful, applicants can go to tribunal, where they have an 80% success rate, including cases the DWP concedes before a hearing takes place. But campaigners say many applicants are too stressed or disillusioned by the MR process to take things further.

Full story www.bigissue.com/news/social-justice/dwp-accused-of-denying-people-their-rights-after-rejecting-90-of-disability-benefit-appeals/

Universal Credit and the money of others

Exploring how money from friends and family impacts UC

Universal Credit (UC) is a means-tested benefit. This means that money, whether it be income or capital (savings), can be a crucial factor in how much someone will be paid each month, and whether they will be entitled to the benefit at all.

Gifts from family or friends, money belonging to kids and money for houses — we'll look at 3 cases and explain whether this is income, capital or ignored altogether.'

medium.com/adviser/universal-credit-and-the-money-of-others-f9de895072d5

citizens
advice

How savings can affect benefits

An overview of the capital rules for means-tested benefits, and where to find further information.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/how-savings-can-affect-benefits/>



Hunger in the UK

Our latest and most in-depth study to date on hunger reveals its causes, impacts and who is affected.



This landmark research is also the first time we've been able to dive more deeply into the experience of hunger in the UK, with reports on Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. With record numbers of people across the country already forced to turn to food banks, our Hunger in the UK reports starkly reveal this is just the tip of the iceberg, with millions more struggling with hunger, but not yet reaching out for charity support.

[2023-Hunger-in-Scotland-report-AW-web.pdf](https://trusselltrust.org/2023-Hunger-in-Scotland-report-AW-web.pdf)
(trusselltrust.org)



Making Work Pay? The labour market effects of capping child benefits in larger families

Published 1 June 2023



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Child benefits are typically paid on a per-child basis, without restrictions on family size. In this paper we generate unique evidence on the effects of capping child benefits by family size by examining the introduction of the UK's 'two-child limit', which restricts means-tested child benefits to just two children per family.

The UK government justified this policy on grounds that it would incentivise employment among larger families.

We use mixed methods – combining quasi-experimental quantitative techniques and qualitative longitudinal research – to investigate the policy's employment effects.

We find no evidence that capping child benefits increases employment.

Labour market activity among larger families seem to be particularly 'sticky' in response to reductions in benefits income, likely due to parents' commitment to unpaid care, the scale of caregiving responsibilities and barriers to paid work.

Our qualitative evidence also indicates that the effects of negative income shocks can render such policies counter-productive by pushing people further away from the labour market.

[Download PDF - Making Work Pay? The labour market effects of capping child benefits in larger families](#)

Carers should check if they can get £1,000s off their council tax bills under the 'live-in carer' or 'severe mental impairment' (SMI) discounts

MSE

MoneySavingExpert.com

MoneySavingExpert has been campaigning to raise awareness of the SMI discount for years – and our reminder comes during this year's Carers Week. You can read more about how the live-in carer and severe mental impairment discounts work in our [Council tax discounts](#) guide, which also includes information about other types of reductions that are available.

If you're a carer, you should also check if you're due [Carer's allowance](#) or [Carer's credit](#) and that you're not missing out on [benefits you may be entitled to](#).

There are many reasons why you could qualify for a discount or reduction off your council tax bill, including because you're a student, on a low income or benefits, living alone (or just with under-18s) and other reasons. Discounts are worth from between 25% off all the way up to the whole bill being wiped. You can read about these – including eligibility criteria and how to apply – in our [Council tax discounts](#) guide.

www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2023/06/council-tax-discount-carers-severe-mental-impairment/



BENEATH THE TRENDS

A detailed look at the issues facing claimants going through managed migration
May 2023



Introduction

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) is undertaking research to identify the difficulties that claimants face during the process of managed migration to universal credit (UC). Throughout 2023 and in the first half of 2024 we will be gathering case studies, speaking to both welfare rights advisers and claimants to understand how managed migration is affecting households, what is going well and how it can be improved. We are sharing our evidence with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on an ongoing basis and this report is the first in a series of public briefings summarising what we have found to date.

cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/briefing/managed-migration-1

Missing out: £19 billion of support goes unclaimed each year

Policy in Practice finds that the total amount of unclaimed income-related benefits and social tariffs is now £18.7 billion a year

Policy in Practice estimates that the total amount of unclaimed income-related benefits and social tariffs is now £18.7 billion a year. Maximising income through the take up of benefits is essential to support households during the cost of living crisis and prevent further financial crises. Designing an effective safety net that supports struggling families demands an accurate understanding of the level of unclaimed benefits and who is not claiming.

A new robust estimate of unclaimed support

The lack of official and up to date data means that estimates tend to rely on experimental methodologies and figures that are sometimes years old. The methodology employed for estimates provided in this paper is calculated from claim and award data where feasible.

We estimate that £7.5 billion of Universal Credit goes unclaimed by 1.2 million eligible households. Caseload take up varies between 70% and 90% for national means tested benefits

Take up is lower for locally administered benefits. Council Tax Support is the most underclaimed, with 2.7 million people missing out on £2.8 billion of support

Social tariffs are also significantly underclaimed. Broadband social tariffs have the lowest take up, with 97% of eligible households missing out on the tariffs. People on means tested benefits should check for eligibility with their utility providers.

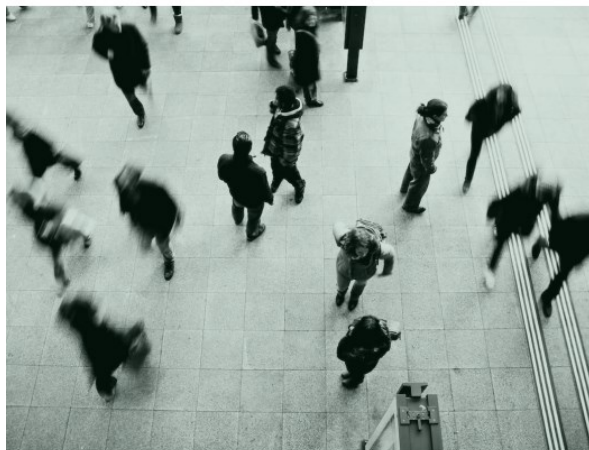
Full report – [£19 billion of income related benefits goes unclaimed each year \(policyinpractice.co.uk\)](https://policyinpractice.co.uk)



Missing out: £19 billion of support goes unclaimed each year

Policy in Practice finds that the total amount of unclaimed income-related benefits and social tariffs is now £18.7 billion a year

Alex Clegg, Deven Ghelani, Zoe Charlesworth, Tylor-Maria Johnson





Money Guiders Scotland network - July event

Financial assistance for families

Tuesday, 11 July (11.30am-12.30pm)

An overview of social security for families with children in Scotland from the Child Poverty Action Group.

This session will cover new devolved support in Scotland, including Best Start and the Scottish child payment, as well as how this fits in with the UK system, child benefit and the move from tax credits to universal credit.

[Register for Financial assistance for families](#)

A partnership approach to affordable credit

Monday, 31 July (11.30am-12.30pm)

How the Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance (RACA) has developed through partnership and collaborative working practices.

In this session you'll:

- hear about the growth of RACA and the importance of partnership working at a local level, with examples and outcomes
- learn what hasn't worked, and
- find out about what you need to start an affordable credit network

[Register for A partnership approach to affordable credit](#)

Can't make it along or want to catch up?

Slides and recordings of previous events (over 50 of them) are available in the [Money Guiders Scotland](#) Knowledge Hub group. Sign-up today for this online community and catch up in your own time. Feel free to pass this on to any of your colleagues.

Help shape the Money Guiders programme

The Money and Pensions Service would value your input to improve the programme and are asking for feedback on how to make it even better.

They would like to invite you to an online/telephone interview with a researcher from [Ecorys](#), to share your views on the programme. The interview will take up to one hour.

You can **register** your interest by emailing Maire at Maire.Williams@ecorys.com by **Monday, 7 July 2023**.

After doing this, Maire will contact you to answer any questions you may have and schedule an interview. They are aiming to conduct interviews throughout July with both front-line practitioners who offer money guidance and leaders/manager who were involved in deciding that staff should take part in the Money Guiders programme.

The information you share with the research team will remain confidential and anonymous and will only be used to improve the programme.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Roxana in the Money and Pensions Service at Roxana.Prisacaru@maps.org.uk

John Mitchell | Knowledge Management Project Manager (Money Guiders Scotland network)



EU citizen guide to claiming benefits in the UK

MAY 2023

What benefits can I claim?

- This depends on your immigration

Where do I find more information?

- For information about NINOs, benefits, tax, your immigration status, employment, housing or any other rights, go to the Citizens Advice Bureau: www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- The Low Incomes Tax Reform Group has also information about NINOs, employment, tax and benefits: www.litrq.org.uk/tax-guides/migrants
- For organisations that may be able to help you locally, use Advice Local: www.advicelocal.uk
- JustRight Scotland has information about the rights of EU/EEA nationals following the UK leaving the EU: www.justrightscotland.org.uk/learn-more/legal-factsheets
- For information about housing rights, see Shelter: www.shelter.org.uk or the Chartered Institute of Housing's resource: www.housing-rights.info/02_0_New_arrivals.php
- Benefits calculator – Turn2Us: <https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk>
- Citizens Rights Project have multilingual factsheets on social security rights, applying for benefits or Universal Credit: www.citizensrightsproject.org
- This factsheet was written by Henri Krishna (Child Poverty Action Group) and researchers from the Health, social, economic & cultural impacts of Covid-19 on migrant essential workers in the UK project funded by UKRI/ESRC Grant ES/V015877/1. Website: www.migrantessentialworkers.com

Download the factsheet - [EU-citizen-advice-to-claiming-benefits-in-UK-23.pdf](#)
(migrantessentialworkers.com)



The UK – a home for Ukrainians? An analysis of social security and housing policy

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This commentary discusses the ways in which the welfare system has responded to the financial and housing needs of Ukrainian citizens coming to the UK since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. The focus is on two key areas of policy: social security and housing. The article considers the revised eligibility criteria for welfare benefits and two policies which can provide accommodation: the Ukraine Family Scheme, which allows applicants to join family members in the UK, and the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme (known as 'Homes for Ukraine') which allows Ukrainian nationals to come to the UK if they have a sponsor who can provide accommodation for at least six months. It provides a comparison of the provision for Ukrainian refugees and the standard asylum system in the UK.

This article concludes that although the UK government quickly introduced emergency provisions for newly arrived Ukrainians which go beyond the scope of support for many other groups moving to the UK, significant areas of concern are evident, with risks that these will increase in future months and years. These concerns centre on discrepancies between the two policies which provide accommodation, risk of exploitation, homelessness caused by the breakdown in provision, and complexity in the welfare benefit system.

Read or download report here – [The UK – a home for Ukrainians? An analysis of social security and housing policy in: Journal of Poverty and Social Justice Volume 31 Issue 2 \(2023\)](#)
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