



News in Brief

Welcome to our last News in Brief before we close our service for the Christmas holidays. For those of you in North Yorkshire and York, our advice line will close at 5pm on Tuesday 22 January and reopen at 9am on Monday 4 January.

APPG on Poverty call for evidence

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Poverty is calling for submissions on the impact of ending this temporary Covid-19 £20 uplift in universal credit and tax credits in April 2021 as well as the impact of not extending the uplift to legacy and other benefits during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The APPG is asking organisations for short written submissions of the key points the APPG should consider to inform its representations to Government. It is particularly interested to hear from organisations which represent **disabled people and carers**, and other groups that have not benefited from the uplift.

A selection of those submitting evidence will be invited to give evidence at a meeting of the APPG on **Thursday 14 January 2021 at 2pm**, which will be taking place on Zoom. Please indicate in your submission whether you would be available and willing to give evidence at the meeting.

Please submit evidence to info@appgpoverty.org.uk by the deadline **Sunday 10 January, 2021**.

For more information, visit www.appgpoverty.org.uk/home-page/appg-launches-call-for-evidence-into-the-impact-on-poverty-of-maintaining-the-20-uplift-in-universal-credit/

EU pre-settled status and benefit claims

The Court of Appeal have quashed the rule that says pre-settled status is not an eligible right to reside for benefit entitlement. However, the decision is stayed until 26 February 2021. CPAG, who brought the legal challenge, have written guidance for claimants who have (or who would if they made a claim) failed the habitual residency test on the basis of having pre-settled status.

EU nationals who have had their claim turned down are advised to request a mandatory reconsideration or submit an appeal as appropriate. Those who have not yet made a claim but who think they would be entitled are advised to claim as soon as possible.

For more information, visit cpag.org.uk/welfare-rights/legal-test-cases/current-test-cases/eu-pre-settled-status

Benefit rates for 2021/22

Benefit rates for the 2021/22 tax year have been announced, however, it has not yet been confirmed whether the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit will continue after the end of March 2021.

Note that the £20 a week uplift has not been included in the 2020/21 rates quoted for either Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit.

The proposed rates are available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-and-pension-rates-2021-to-2022/benefit-and-pension-rates-2021-to-2022

Failure to Attend reintroduced for Personal Independence Payment

DWP have reintroduced the Failure to Attend process for Personal Independence Payment claimants who don't attend their phone assessment. This means that a claim can now be disallowed if a claimant does not attend the phone assessment without good reason. Failure to Attend decisions can be challenged by Mandatory Reconsideration and appeal as appropriate.

www.rightsnet.org.uk/welfare-rights/news/item/dwp-re-introduces-failure-to-attend-process-for-pip-claimants-who-miss-their-telephone-assessment

Furlough extended by a month

The government have announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has now been extended by a further month to April 2021.

Find out more at www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-and-loan-schemes

Universal Credit claimants who reach State Pension age

DWP have released guidance covering the run-on of Universal Credit for claimants who reach State Pension age. Legislation which came into force on 26 November provides that where a claimant has been entitled to Universal Credit and reaches State Pension age, entitlement to Universal Credit will continue until the start of the assessment period after the one in which they reach that age. Entitlement to Universal Credit may then overlap with Pension Credit and/or Housing Benefit for a period.

Legislation www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/655/made
ADM 28-20

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945887/adm28-20.pdf

DMG 24-20

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945894/m-24-20.pdf

Need to escape this Christmas?

Housing Solutions have just the thing for you...

www.housingsystems.co.uk/Tools/Escape-Rooms/Calculating-UC-Escape-Room



 Advice  Publications  Training