



## ***News in Brief***

Our 2021/2022 Adviser's Guide is in! If you haven't already done so, make sure you get your order in here [Order Online | Welfare Benefits Unit](#)

We work hard to make this a valuable resource – it is aimed at advisers who give benefits advice at any level in their work.

### **Managed migration to Universal Credit pilot paused**

The pilot scheme that made a slow start in Harrogate in 2019 has been paused until April 2022. The Work and Pension Select Committee has written to the DWP asking for the details behind this decision, which was announced in an Office for Budget Responsibility document.

The letter can be found here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/5264/documents/52838/default/>

### **Working Tax Credit £500 payment**

HMRC have released further details regarding the one-off £500 payment which will be made to eligible tax credit claimants. A reminder – this payment replaces the ongoing uplift which was introduced due to COVID-19. HMRC have confirmed that:

- Claimants do not need to make a separate claim
- Eligibility will be confirmed either by text message or letter
- Payment should be received into the same bank account that tax credits are paid into by 23 April 2021
- The payment is not subject to Income Tax or National Insurance and does not need to be reported in a self-assessment declaration.
- The payment does not count as income for Housing Benefit.

For more information, visit [One-off £500 payment](#)

### **Timetable for return of face-to-face assessments**

The DWP have announced the timetable for the reintroduction of face-to-face assessments for health and disability benefits. Initially reintroduced for claimants who are 'unable to fully access other channels', face to face assessments will run alongside paper and telephone-based assessments.

'Face-to-face assessments for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) claimants in England will resume from 12 April 2021. Face-to-face assessments for Work Capability

Assessments (WCAs) (for claims for the additional health amount of Universal Credit and Employment and Support Allowance) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP), will resume from May.

For more information, visit [Face-to-face assessments to resume for health and disability benefits](#)

## Call for evidence – PIP and ESA decision making

The Advice Sector Panel of the Administrative Justice Council is working on a project regarding the consequences of poor decision-making by the DWP in relation to PIP and ESA claims and reassessments. They are asking advisers to get in touch with case studies, particularly where claimants had DWP decisions overturned at tribunal.

If you can help, case studies (half to a full A4 page in length) should be sent to [shunt@justice.org.uk](mailto:shunt@justice.org.uk), and the deadline is Friday 30 April 2021.

## Survey request

Z2K is an anti-poverty charity. They have launched a survey looking at the benefit assessment process, the results of which will be included in an upcoming campaign – part of which will be a call for the publication of the Health and Disability Green Paper.

The survey is available here: <https://bit.ly/2OKgpMz>, and the deadline is 28 April 2021.