



## ***News in Brief***

With the summer drawing to a close, we hope you have all managed a bit of time off, whether at home or elsewhere. As ever, we have trawled through all the latest news to pick out the bits which we think are the most useful and relevant for your work.

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### **End of the UC uplift**

Despite calls from all sides to preserve the £20 per week UC uplift, Work and Pensions secretary Dr Thérèse Coffey is refusing to maintain the increase.

Claimants should have received details of the date of their last increased payment via their journals – with details still sketchy on how those without an online account are being notified of the change. Assessment periods which end on or after 6 October will be calculated with the lower standard allowance.

For more information, visit **[Thousands face 'severe hardship' as Minister rejects UK-wide call to keep Universal Credit uplift - Committees - UK Parliament](#)**

### **More Working Tax Credit claimants to receive £500 covid payment**

HMRC has confirmed that about 23,000 extra Working Tax Credit claimants will receive the one off £500 Covid payment in September 2021. Eligibility for this payment depended on your circumstances on 2 March 2021, and it replaced the temporary uplift to the basic element which was introduced due to Covid. Despite the crucial date being long past, finalisation of subsequent awards has revealed claimants who were not initially considered eligible but are now.

For more information, visit

**<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7228/documents/75922/default/>**

## Two wages in one month – update

We have finally received the news that we have been waiting for – the process for identifying double wage payments that are received in one monthly assessment period has been automated. Note though that while these payments should now be identified automatically, moving the second payment will still be a manual process.

‘DWP has changed its processes so that the Universal Credit system now automatically identifies claimants who receive a second monthly salary payment in one benefit assessment period. Staff will be able to move the second payment forward to the next assessment period in the system, ensuring the claimant’s benefits don’t fluctuate from one month to the next due to the system thinking a claimant has received increased wages in one month.’

For more information, see the latest edition of DWP Touchbase [Touchbase - 27 August 2021 \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#)

## Health and Disability Green Paper

The long awaited Health and Disability Green Paper ‘considers the options for addressing some of the short – to medium – term issues in health and disability benefits’, and ‘explores how the welfare system can better meet the needs of disabled people and people with health conditions now and in the future, enabling people to live independently and move into work where possible’.

The consultation period closes at 11.45pm on 11 October 2021. If you want to add your voice, there is an online survey which can be filled out at [Shaping future support: The Health and Disability Green Paper - Department for Work and Pensions - Citizen Space \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#).

There are also a number of online consultations taking place – details can be found at [Touchbase - 13 August 2021 \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#)

## Do you have clients affected by the benefit cap or two child limit?

Researchers from the University of York, Oxford University and the London School of Economics (in partnership with CPAG) are looking for claimants willing to take part in a study about the impact of the benefit cap and two child limit. The evidence gathered will be used widely; including with politicians, policymakers and the voluntary and third sector. Claimants will receive a £20 voucher for taking part.

For more information, visit <https://largerfamilies.study/families> or email [benefits-study@york.ac.uk](mailto:benefits-study@york.ac.uk)