



News in Brief

We hope you found our Winter Benefits Bulletin useful – if you missed it, catch up on our website [WBU-Benefits-Bulletin-Winter-2022.pdf \(welfare-benefits-unit.org.uk\)](https://welfare-benefits-unit.org.uk/WBU-Benefits-Bulletin-Winter-2022.pdf)

We are hard at work updating our Advisers Guide. Pre order your 2022/2023 copy here: [Order Online | Welfare Benefits Unit \(welfare-benefits-unit.org.uk\)](https://welfare-benefits-unit.org.uk/Order-Online-Welfare-Benefits-Unit)

In this issue:

[Way to Work – changes for jobseekers](#)

[Audio recordings of PIP assessments](#)

[Terminal illness and the claimant commitment](#)

[HMRC Post Office payments](#)

Way to Work – changes for jobseekers

New rules, in force from 8 February 2022, have changed the rules regarding jobseekers' work search requirements. Under the previous rules, jobseekers were allowed to limit their search for three months, only looking for work of a similar type and pay to their previous work history. The new rules reduce this three month period (known as the 'permitted period') to a maximum of four weeks and apply to Universal Credit and new-style Jobseeker's Allowance claimants.

More information can be found here: [ADM memo 2/22: UC & JSA \(NS\) changes to permitted period \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/ADM-memo-2/22-UC-JSA-NS-changes-to-permitted-period)

Audio recordings of PIP assessments

Updated PIP guidance states that assessment providers now have the ability to record PIP consultations. This applies to both telephone and face-to-face consultations but must be requested in advance.

Full details can be found in the PIP assessment guide at 1.6.58: [PIP assessment guide part 1: the assessment process - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/PIP-assessment-guide-part-1-the-assessment-process)

Terminal illness and the claimant commitment

New regulations, in force from 15 February 2022, provide that terminally ill claimants for Universal Credit and Employment and Support Allowance are exempt from the

requirement to accept a claimant commitment. Until this point, exemption for these claimants was at the discretion of the work coach.

Full details can be found here: [The Universal Credit and Employment and Support Allowance \(Claimant Commitment Exceptions\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

HMRC Post Office payments

Despite their previous insistence that payments of tax credits, Child Benefit and Guardian's Allowance would stop being made into Post Office card accounts from 30 November 2021, HMRC made a last minute extension to the deadline. Customers now have until 5 April 2022 to provide HMRC with alternative bank details. HMRC have said that there are still around 13,000 customers who need to switch their accounts, so please do try to make your customers aware.

For more information, visit [HMRC customers with Post Office card accounts given extra time to switch accounts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

