



News in Brief

Welcome to the final 2023 edition of News in Brief. From all at WBU, we wish you a Merry Christmas!

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Disability premiums and Universal Credit

You are hopefully all aware that if you were in receipt of the severe disability premium and you migrate naturally to Universal Credit, you may be entitled to an extra amount in your Universal Credit award (the transitional severe disability premium element). However, this amount didn't factor in other disability premiums that claimants could have been entitled to in their legacy benefit awards.

Following a long running legal challenge, from 14 February 2024, there will now be an additional amount payable on top of the existing TSDPE for those who entitled to the transitional severe disability premium element and were also entitled to another disability premium in the month before their Universal Credit claim. This includes the enhanced disability premium, disability premium and disabled child premium/tax credit element.

The additional amount can be included for new and existing Universal Credit claimants, including those whose transitional severe disability premium element has eroded away to nil, but not including those who have lost the element in other circumstances.

The amount payable works in the same way as the TSDPE element: any additional amount that you are entitled to is paid at the maximum rate in your first monthly assessment period. After this, it is treated as a transitional element and can erode – including by the annual uprating, which will occur shortly after these amounts are first awarded.

Note: although eligibility for these disability premiums does not depend on entitlement to

the severe disability premium, the additional amounts in Universal Credit are only available to those who would come under the severe disability premium protection rules.

Single claimants (maximum amount):

£84 – if you received the enhanced disability premium

£172 – if you received the disability premium

£177 (per child) – if you received the disabled child premium or disabled child element in Child Tax Credit

Joint claimants (maximum amount):

£120 – if you received the enhanced disability premium

£246 – if you received the disability premium

£177 (per child) – if you received the disabled child premium or disabled child element in Child Tax Credit

For more information, visit:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/1238/memorandum/contents

Move to UC – plan for 2024

The DWP have issued an update regarding the managed migration or ‘move to UC’ process. Neil Couling, Senior Responsible Owner for Universal Credit, has written to all local authorities, outlining the plan for 2024:

'We plan to undertake the issuing of migration notices to working age benefit claimants sequentially starting with Income Support (April – June), Employment and Support Allowance with Child Tax Credit (July – September) and Jobseeker’s Allowance (September). If a Housing Benefit customer is receiving one of these benefits, they will receive a migration notice. From April we will also invite tax credits with Housing Benefit and then Housing Benefit (only) customers to move.'

Mr Couling also noted that the department is on track to issue 500,000 migration notices before the end of March 2024.

For more information, visit: [www.rightsnet.org.uk/pdfs/041223 LA - UC update.pdf](http://www.rightsnet.org.uk/pdfs/041223_LA_-_UC_update.pdf)

Payment and qualifying dates for next Cost of Living Payment

The DWP have announced the payment date for the next Cost of Living Payment – worth £299.

For those in receipt of a DWP administered benefit, it will be paid between 6 February and 22 February 2024, and for those in receipt of tax credits only, it will be paid between 16 February – 22 February.

To be entitled, claimants must have been receiving a qualifying benefit between 13 November and 12 December 2023.

To qualify, a claimant must have received:

- For Universal Credit, payment for an assessment period ending between 13 November 2023 to 12 December 2023.
- For all other DWP means-tested benefits, payment in respect of any day between 13 November 2023 to 12 December 2023.
- For tax credits-only customers, a payment of tax credits in respect of any day in the period 13 November 2023 to 12 December 2023 or later be paid in respect of any day in this period.

For more information, visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment

Minimum income floor change

A correction to the Autumn Statement has been issued, bringing forward the change to the minimum income floor for lead carers of children aged 3 to 12. Additionally, it removes the cap of £1,250 a month.

Table 5.1, page 83. The title of line 33 previously read:

33. Universal Credit: increase the minimum income floor by up to a max. of £1,250 a month for lead carers from April 2024

This has been corrected so the title now reads:

33. Universal Credit: increase the maximum level of the minimum income floor for lead carers from January 2024

For more information, visit:

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/656895705936bb00133167d8/Autumn_Statement_correction_slip.pdf

Support for Mortgage Interest - rate change

The Support for Mortgage Interest rates have changed...again. From 11 December, the interest rate used to calculate the amount you can borrow is to increase to 3.16% – up from 2.65%.

For more information, visit: www.gov.uk/support-for-mortgage-interest/what-youll-get