

Home Responsibilities Protection correction exercise latest outcomes

June 2011

Contents

Background 3
Methodology 4
Results 4

Background

Home Responsibilities Protection

Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP) was available in respect of the tax years 1978/79 to 2009/10 if insufficient National Insurance contributions had been paid or credited to make the year a qualifying year for basic pension (and its equivalents in widow's and bereavement benefits) purposes, where the person:

- was receiving Child Benefit in respect of a child under the age of 16;
- was caring for a severely disabled person for a minimum of 35 hours per week;
- was receiving a carers premium to income support;
- in the case of years 2003/04 to 2009/10, was a foster parent.

HRP was not a National Insurance credit, it operated by reducing the number of years of National Insurance contributions or credits required for entitlement to a basic pension (and its equivalents in widow's and bereavement benefits) to a minimum of 20.

For people reaching pension age from 6 April 2010 onwards years of HRP were converted into years of National Insurance credits and from April 2010 HRP was replaced by weekly National Insurance credits for people who are:

- receiving Child Benefit for a child under the age of 12;
- foster parents;
- caring for one or more severely disabled adults or children for a minimum of 35 hours per week.

Where the person was receiving child benefit for a child under the age of 16, HRP should be recorded automatically on the child benefit payee's account on the National Insurance Recording system (NIRS) by means of a data feed from the Child Benefit Computer system.

Further information on HRP is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Caringforsomeone/DG_10018691

It was identified that there had been a weakness in the system in that many cases will have had to have been matched onto NIRS clerically because neither the individual's National Insurance number nor date of birth were included in the Child Benefit details. The errors mainly affected women. As a result the correct number of HRP years will not have been included in NIRS records for some customers and this may have an impact on State Pension entitlement.

This weakness has been removed for new claims to child benefit from 2000 where the person is required to provide their National Insurance number.

In July 2009 a special exercise commenced in Pension, Disability and Carers Service to correct existing State Pension awards for women.

This ad hoc publication provides the latest data on the outcomes of exercise and the number of women who have had their State Pension increased as a result of the exercise.

Methodology

The source of this data is the Customer Contact Management System which is used to control and record to the outcomes of the exercise.

The same data source has previously been used to answer Parliamentary Questions about the progress of the exercise.

Results

Table showing latest outcomes of the HRP correction exercise, 13 June 2011.

Cases where State Pension has been improved through the award of HRP	36,060
Gross total of State Pension arrears paid	£83,884,590
Average additional weekly amount of State Pension awarded (GB customers)	£10.00

Notes:

1. Source: Customer Contact Management System.
2. The correction exercise is due to finish in July 2011 although there will be some residual cases that will need to be dealt with over the following few months.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Ronnie Ross (ronnie.ross@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
Department for Work and Pensions
15th June 2011