

# Housing Benefit

## General Information Bulletin

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

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**HB G5/2017**

**17 May 2017**

<b>Contact</b>	Queries about the <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>technical content of this bulletin</b>, contact details are given at the end of each article</li><li>• distribution of this bulletin, contact <a href="mailto:housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk">housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk</a></li></ul>
<b>Who should read</b>	All Housing Benefit (HB) staff
<b>Action</b>	For information

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## Real Time Information service starts to rollout

1. Rollout of the Real Time Information (RTI) service began on 24 April 2017 with the 6 local authority (LA) test sites:
  - Flintshire
  - Gateshead
  - Glasgow
  - Kensington and Chelsea
  - Leeds
  - Wrexham
2. Housing Benefit (HB) assessors in these LAs are now using the income details from HM Revenue & Customs to assess new claims, changes of circumstances and reviews.
3. The project implementation managers are now working with 47 LAs in the South East to get ready for your rollout on 22nd May 2017. Individual calls to LA Single Point of Contacts along with supporting materials and conference calls are ensuring that timescales are being met and that the process is as straightforward as possible. Rollout will continue in 5 further tranches up to November 2017.
4. Some preparation activities will be required by each LA in the lead up to your rollout; this includes obtaining access to the RTI service via the Employee Authentication Service. Sponsors and agents should have received instructions and a timetable via the National Registration Authority Hub. These instructions have also been stored on Glasscubes.
5. To ensure your LA is prepared, please look out for articles and instructions issued by the project.
6. If you have any questions regarding the content of this article you can email [rtiprojects.portfolioqueries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rtiprojects.portfolioqueries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Data Validation Transformation service

7. From 26 May 2017, the process by which LAs receive third party schedules for non-HB debt is changing. The current routing of these schedules from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to LAs is via email, IPSwitch or Open Text. From 26 May 2017, these schedules will be sent via the Data Hub. The files will continue to be sent in XML format with a .txt extension.
8. A timetable for these schedules has already been shared and it is expected that LAs will receive their first file between 26 May and 22 June 2017.
9. Those LAs who currently receive the files clerically will continue to receive them this way. If you would prefer to receive the files electronically please

contact the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Team by email to [customerpayments.edi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customerpayments.edi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

10. Please note that any requests received will only be actioned **following** go-live rollout from July 2017.
11. LA debt teams should raise all incidents with the EDI Team who will take responsibility for escalating the incident within DWP and providing LAs with updates. Incidents should be raised by email to [customerpayments.edi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customerpayments.edi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
12. If you do not receive a file as timetabled and the file does not appear in your Message Queue Inbox, please raise this with the EDI Team by email to [customerpayments.edi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customerpayments.edi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
13. Any queries on the data contained in the schedules should be made via the Third Party Payments team using telephone number 0345 6002859 or by email [tpp-call-centre@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tpp-call-centre@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Introduction of Bereavement Support Payments from April 2017**

14. It is important that LAs ensure compliance in the accurate completion and recording of information for Bereavement Support Payments (BSP), which were introduced on the 6 April 2017. These awards will be recorded in the same manner as existing awards to other bereavement allowances on your respective IT systems enabling the accurate capture of management information (MI).
15. Your focus should be given to the recording of the BSP amount awarded to both the claimant and their partner.
16. As you know BSP is fully disregarded for HB purposes so again it is important that you record the total amount of income disregarded for both the claimant and their partner. Ensuring compliance with the above will safeguard the accurate recording of MI.
17. Any queries should be emailed to [hddchange.managementoffice@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hddchange.managementoffice@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## **HB decisions by the Upper Tribunal**

18. Decision Making and Appeals Leeds is aware of the following HB cases that have been decided by the Upper Tribunal:
  - CH/2313/16 and CH/2774/16: Spare Room Subsidy Removal. Remit. Nelson followed.
  - CH/2839/16, CH/2840/16, CH/2841/16 and CH/2842/16: Remit-striking out the claimant's appeals involved the making of an error on a point of law.

Claimant should have been given a further opportunity of making representations in accordance with rule 8(4) of the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) Rules 2008.

- CH/3297/15: Third country national who could not derive a right to reside from her husband when he was imprisoned so she was not entitled to HB as she did not have a right to reside.
- CSH 422 16: Appeal dismissed. Overpayments recoverable. Claimant relied on the decision of Judge Poynter in *CP v City of Brighton & Hove (HB)* [2013] UKUT 542 (AAC), however this was misunderstood and did not infringe the principle of *CP*.
- CH 2363 16: Appeal dismissed. Failed to notify a change in circumstances.
- CH 3250 16: Set aside. Overpayments recoverable only from the former tenant under reg 101(2) (b) and not the Lettings Agency who were acting on behalf of the landlord.

19. Decisions of the Upper Tribunal are published on their website which can be found on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

20. If you have any queries about cases before the Upper Tribunal Judges or courts, please contact us by email at [fldmdma.customersupportservices@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fldmdma.customersupportservices@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or fax on 0113 232 4841.

## Statutory Instruments

21. The following Statutory Rule of Northern Ireland has been laid:

- 2017 No.79, The Social Security (Restrictions on Amounts for Children and Qualifying Young Persons) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, coming into operation from 11 May 2017

22. Copies of SIs can now be downloaded from DWP's own website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/law-volumes/the-law-relating-to-social-security/> and the website of the Office of Publication Sector Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm>

## What's new on our HB pages on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

23. The following items can be found on the website link shown

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB U1/2017	Upper Tier decision: Carmichael	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hb-bulletin-u12017-upper-tribunal-decision-concerning-spare-room-subsidy">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hb-bulletin-u12017-upper-tribunal-decision-concerning-spare-room-subsidy</a>
HB G4/2017	<p>Discretionary Housing Payments: end of year returns 2016/17</p> <p>2016/17 Certification guidance to auditors</p> <p>Update: Real Time Information service</p> <p>Modernisation of the General Referral Matching Service</p> <p>Tax-Free Childcare Scheme</p> <p>HB decisions by the Upper Tribunal</p> <p>Statutory Instruments</p> <p>What's new on our HB pages on GOV.UK</p> <p>RTI rollout schedule Annex 1</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments 2016/17 monitoring return form provided as a separate Appendix A</p>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hb-bulletin-g42017">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hb-bulletin-g42017</a>

Circular HB S7/2017	Additional New Burdens funding to meet the costs of implementing welfare reform changes in 2017/18	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610880/s7-2017.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610880/s7-2017.pdf</a>
Circular HB S8/2017	Payment of New Burdens relating to the Single Fraud Investigation Service Project for 2017/18	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610881/s8-2017.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/610881/s8-2017.pdf</a>