

Housing Benefit

General Information Bulletin

Department for Work and Pensions, 6th Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street,
London SW1 9NA
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

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HB G8/2015

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

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Rollout of Personal Independence Payment continues

1. Full Personal Independence Payment (PIP) rollout began in July 2015 for 3000 Disability Living Allowance claimants living in postcode areas: Blackburn (BB), Bolton (BL), Manchester (M), Oldham (OL), Preston (PR), Warrington (WA), Wigan (WN), Derby (DE), Leicester (LE), Stoke on Trent (ST).
2. From 17 August 2015, a limited number of claimants living in Colchester (CO), Liverpool (L) and Norwich (NR) will also be invited to claim PIP.
3. Claimants will be selected randomly by the computer system where they:
 - have an indefinite or long term award, and
 - are of working age, or
 - have become 65 since 8 April 2013.
4. More information is available in the [PIP Toolkit](#). However, if you have any further queries about this article please contact margaret.birchall@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Acceptable alternative evidence for subsidy claims certification

5. During the 2014/15 subsidy workshops a number of people raised the same question regarding what alternative evidence auditors can accept when original claim forms are either unavailable or missing.
6. If original claim forms are needed by auditors during the certification of final subsidy claims the following list of alternative types of evidence that demonstrate a claim form was received, are acceptable to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP):
 - letters or other records of communication from the claimant about changes in circumstances
 - copies of information supporting income, capital or rent levels
 - responses from the claimant to local authority (LA) enquiries
 - copies of records of reviews of the claim
 - information from the DWP when benefit has been passported.
7. The above list has been agreed with the external audit organisations.
8. If you have any queries about this advice please contact michael.mina@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Subsidy certification arrangements for Real Time Information changes

9. The current certification arrangements agreed by the DWP and the external audit organisations specify that auditors may need to see original documentation to support any change.
10. In respect of non-Real Time Information (RTI) changes, this requirement remains in force.
11. However, with regard to RTI related changes, where the RTI notification contains sufficient information to process a change to benefit entitlement the RTI notification is sufficient for certification purposes.
12. The DWP does not expect LAs to obtain additional evidence to support this type of RTI notification and auditors do not expect LAs to have additional evidence for these changes.
13. In line with this, the DWP does not expect that the requirements of the certification process will limit LA capacity to action RTI referrals.
14. If you have any questions on this matter please contact hbsubsidy.queries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Changes to the 18 to 21 year old housing policy

15. To prevent young people slipping straight into a life on benefits, from April 2017 the government will remove the automatic entitlement to housing support for new claims in Universal Credit from 18 to 21 year olds who are out of work. This will ensure young people in the benefits system face the same choices as young people who work and who may not be able to afford to leave home.
16. We will ensure that vulnerable young people who are in need of support for their housing needs continue to receive it. Government will consider the impact in line with our legal obligations as part of that process.
17. If you have any queries please email caxtonhouse.uchousing@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB) 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/248/15: Claimant appeal dismissed. Tax credits correctly apportioned.

- CH/1392/14: Deprivation of capital. Tribunal wrongly believed they were bound by findings of fact on previous claim.
- CH/5537/14: Tribunal’s decision confused issues of commercial basis of tenancy with living as a couple.
- CSH/37/15: Spare Room Subsidy. Room in question was a bedroom. Nelson applied.
- CH/2602/2014: Claimant appeals (Income Support and Jobseeker’s Allowance supersessions and overpayments, and HB/CTB overpayment). Remitted to address paragraphs 19 to 25, emotional aspects of relationship, and 27 to 28, income levels.
- CH/1301/15: Spare Room Subsidy. Shared care. Child Benefit determinative of household question.
- CH/3991/14 and CH/3988/14 are linked cases with the following heading: When Council Tax liability retrospectively removed the CTB put into the CT account was not “excess benefit”.
- CH/5323/14: Spare Room Subsidy. Room to be classified as a bedroom. Nelson followed.
- CH/289/15: Non-dependant. Tribunal erred in concluding that son was student in summer vacation.

19. Decisions of the Upper Tribunal are published on their website which can be found here:

<http://www.administrativeappeals.tribunals.gov.uk/Decisions/decisions.htm>

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

Fax on 0113 2324841

What’s new on the web

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

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB G7/2015	Bulletin HB G6/2015 addition DWP postal addresses Access to data via the Customer Information System	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447415/g7-2015.pdf

	<p>MAG:NET use of LoCTA</p> <p>Data Transport Appliance Replacement: Data Hub</p> <p>DTA Windows Operating Software Update</p> <p>Alternative Payment Arrangements, email application process</p> <p>Email communication with DWP from 13 July 2015</p> <p>Universal Credit national expansion</p> <p>Universal Support delivered locally</p> <p>Cases with the Upper Tribunal</p> <p>Statutory Instruments</p> <p>What's new on the web</p> <p>Appendix A attached as a separate document</p>	
<p>HB Direct issue 160 July 2015</p>	<p>Editorial</p> <p>Local Authority Subsidy Workshops</p> <p>Rollout of Personal Independence Payment Continues</p> <p>Single Fraud Investigation Service fraud referrals</p> <p>SFIS Project LA Service Provision Review</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/440622/hb-direct-july-2015.pdf</p>
<p>Circular HB A8/2015</p>	<p>EEA Right to Reside – Permanent Residence Status</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/449157/a8-2015.pdf</p>
<p>Circular HB S8/2015 REV</p>	<p>Payment of New Burdens relating to the Single Fraud Investigation Service for 2015/16 – revised</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446441/s8-2015-rev.pdf</p>

Circular HB A9/2015	Discretionary Housing Payment Guidance 2015 with attached Appendix A	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/453669/a9-2015.pdf
Circular HB A10/2015	April uprating: clarification of effective dates for HB	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/453671/a10-2015.pdf