

DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – September 2013

Welcome to the September 2013 issue of the DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – a newsletter to let you know what is happening in the Department for Work and Pensions.

If you have a comment or feedback about this bulletin, please email the [Strategic Engagement and Partnerships team](#).

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Claimant Commitment rolls out across Jobcentres

On [28 August 2013](#), DWP announced that the Claimant Commitment will roll out nationally to around 100 jobcentres a month from October 2013.

The introduction of the Claimant Commitment will be a vital part of the cultural transformation that Universal Credit will bring.

The Commitment builds on the Jobseeker's Agreement which is currently in use and places a strong focus on the claimant's responsibility to do all they can to look for work in return for the support they receive from the state.

This new approach is designed to ensure claimants have the best chance of finding paid work quickly. Those who fail to comply will risk losing their benefits.

£69 million more for business Start-Up Loans and New Enterprise Allowance

Last week, the Prime Minister announced that a [£69 million package of support](#) will help British entrepreneurs who want to start a business. This package of support is now available through Start-Up Loans and the [New Enterprise Allowance](#) for Jobcentre Plus claimants.

Over 30,000 new businesses have been created with support from government schemes in the last 2 years alone.

The new funding will build on this momentum and includes:

- The New Enterprise Allowance being extended until the end of 2014, to continue to help Jobcentre Plus claimants start up a new business. The scheme has already helped to create more than 26,000 businesses.
- £34 million for [Start-Up Loans](#) that will support around 7,600 businesses.

To hear the Minister for Employment Mark Hoban talk about the extension of the New Enterprise Allowance, watch this [YouTube video](#).

More information about the New Enterprise Allowance is available on the [DWP website](#).

Changes to the PIP reassessment go live date

The Government recently held a consultation on the PIP 'Moving Around' assessment criteria. Responses to the consultation are being carefully considered before the Government makes a decision about whether changes to the criteria are necessary. As yet, no decision has been made.

Because of this, reassessment for existing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claims will start three weeks later than initially planned, on 28 October - however, if the Government decides changes are needed to the 'Moving Around' criteria, these reassessments will not start until after any changes have been made.

New claims to PIP will continue as normal.

More information about PIP is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Free planning tool helps employers plan for workplace pensions

More than 1 million workers have been automatically enrolled into a workplace pension since October 2012.

Every employer must comply with the new law on workplace pensions to automatically enrol eligible workers into a pension scheme. Large employers have started this process with smaller employers making preparations now.

More information on workplace pensions is available on the [Pensions Regulator website](#), including a free planning tool to help employers.

Changes to the disputes and appeals process

Changes to the disputes and appeals process will apply to all DWP benefits and child maintenance cases from 28 October 2013.

The three changes are:

- Mandatory reconsideration of disputed decisions
- Direct lodgement of appeals with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
- Time limits for the return of appeals responses.

These changes were introduced in April 2013 as part of the benefit design for Personal Independence Payment and Universal Credit.

You can find out more about the changes and how they will affect your customers on [GOV.UK](#), where an [information pack](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) are available, along with Welsh versions of both documents. You can also find out more through your [local Partnership Manager](#).

If you have any further questions please contact the [Benefits Delivery Programme Communications Team](#).

DWP consultations

All current live DWP consultations and the latest published consultation responses are available on the [consultation pages](#) of GOV.UK.

[Tax-Free Childcare](#). Closes 14 October 2013.

[Work Programme official statistics after June 2013: content and presentation](#). Closes 22 November 2013.