

DWP Stakeholder Bulletin – July 2014

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Completion of Health and Work Service Tendering Exercise

Following a successful tendering exercise, Health Management Limited, a Maximus company has been appointed to deliver the new Health and Work Service in England and Wales. The Health and Work Service in Scotland will be delivered by the Scottish Government and will provide the same core service as delivered in England and Wales.

The Service will make health and work expertise and occupational health assessments more widely available to all GPs, employers and employees via:

- an occupational health assessment, offered to employees who have reached, or are expected to reach, four weeks' sickness absence; and
- a web based and telephone advice service providing general health and work advice, which will be available to all, including employees, employers and GPs.

Further guidance is available [here](#).

Oakley Review into Sanctions

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has welcomed [Matthew Oakley's review](#), which examines DWP's processes and communications for Jobseeker's Allowance benefit sanctions.

The review considered the views of stakeholders and looked at how the process works for those who had been sanctioned after being referred to a mandatory back-to-work scheme.

Matthew Oakley has made a range of recommendations which the [Department responded](#) to on 22 July 2014.

The Department is committed to continuous reform of the sanctions system to ensure it remains fair to taxpayers and to claimants and has already developed a clear and accessible guide to help claimants.

More information is available in the [Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions guide](#) and the [DWP press release](#).

Tax Credits Renewal Deadline

This year, tax credits can be renewed online – the deadline for all claims is 31 July 2014.

For eligibility, visit GOV.UK (claimants must have received Declaration Form TC603D).

Last year, HMRC answered over 8 million tax credits calls during the renewals season and half a million people had their tax credits stopped because they didn't renew on time.

For renewals by phone, call the Tax Credit helpline on 0345 300 3900 as soon as possible. The best time of getting through to the helpline is 8.30am – 10.30am or 2.15pm to 4pm, avoiding Mondays and Fridays.

Disability Confident – ‘One Year On’

To mark the first year of the Disability Confident campaign, DWP has launched two portals to help employers and employees on their way to being Disability Confident.

The [Employers' Portal](#) improves access to information for employers on the benefits of employing disabled people.

The [Young Person's Portal](#) gives young people, and those who work with them, the information they need to get the job they want.

If you would like to get involved in year two of the campaign, please contact the team via [email](#).

#firstjob

As part of the Government's drive to help more young people into work, DWP is encouraging young people to look at employment opportunities available to them.

Celebrities and entrepreneurs such as Lenny Henry and Deborah Meaden have taken to Twitter to talk about their early working lives and tips for getting, and progressing, in a job.

The campaign is encouraging people to recognise that while your first job probably won't be your dream job, it's a great place to start gaining skills, knowledge and practical experience.

If you'd like to get involved, you can add to the 4000 #firstjob mentions through Twitter [@DWPgovuk](#).