

Housing Benefit

General Information Bulletin

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www.gov.uk/dwp

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HB G7/2018

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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

Contents

	paragraph
Customer Information System Interest Automation	1
Non receipt of an HB Stop notification from Universal Credit	5
HB Cases with the Upper Tribunal	16
New Legislation	20
What's new on our HB pages on www.gov.uk	22

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Reminder: Customer Information System Interest Automation

1. The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP's) Housing Delivery Division's Local Authority Data Sharing (LADS) Delivery Team published communications on Glasscubes (11 June 2018) and in June's HB [G6/2018](#) providing background details on the new Customer Information System Interest Automation project we are working on and requested IT contact details from each LA IT department as follows:
 - LA name
 - contact name
 - email address
 - telephone number
2. It is imperative we have support from each LA IT department to deploy security certificates and undertake connectivity testing between LA and DWP computer systems.
3. Thank you to those LAs who have already provided these details, however there still remains a significant number of LAs who have not provided theirs to date.
4. Therefore if you have not already done so, we ask that you provide your LA's contact details as listed above to lads.deliveryteam@dwp.gsi.gov.uk (Please note the subject line will be pre-populated).

Non receipt of an HB Stop notification from Universal Credit

5. Housing Benefit (HB) Stop notifications are issued when a claimant's identity has been verified and the system checks the Customer Information System (CIS) interest to see if there is a HB interest set on the case.
6. The HB Stop notification is used for a number of reasons:
 - to close down the HB claim (where appropriate)
 - recovery of any overlapping benefits paid
 - to trigger the transition to Universal Credit (UC) housing payment.
7. More information on the HB Stop and UCMGP1 process can be found in the UC LA L&D pack.
8. We have been informed that there has been a number of LAs reporting that they have not been receiving HB Stop notifications for all cases where the claimant is naturally migrating across to UC.

9. On investigation this has been happening for the following reasons:
 - CIS HB interest has not been set
 - CIS HB interest has been set for the wrong LA
10. Therefore we ask all LAs to ensure that the CIS HB interest markers are set correctly for their caseloads.
11. This should resolve any further issues, however, LAs who have not received an HB Stop notification via the data hub but have received Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR) data sharing download via the data hub are asked to:
 - complete an UCMGP1 to inform the Service Centre that the appropriate HB claim closure action has been completed. This includes identifying any overlapping HB and notifying the Service Centre to recover any monies where appropriate.
12. A UCMGP1 needs to be completed for every HB Stop notification received by the LA to ensure that the actions are complete and duplicate requests are not issued by the Service Centre.
13. The date of entitlement from the LCTR data share can also be used to make the Transition to UC Housing Payment where the HB Stop notification has not been received. See circular HB [A2/2018](#) for more details on the Transition to UC Housing Payments.
14. LAs should be using the latest version of the UCMGP1 that was made available in the UC LA L&D pack that was issued in April 2018. More information on setting the CIS HB Interest can also be found in the UC LA L&D pack.
15. Where the LA receive an HB Stop notification that is not for them, they need to ensure that the CIS HB Interest is removed for that claimant and the UCMGP1 is returned to the Service Centre explaining that this is for the wrong LA.

Cases with the Upper Tribunal

HB cases awaiting decision by the Upper Tribunal

16. Decision Making and Appeals (DMA) Leeds have been made aware of the following HB/CTB cases that are awaiting decision by the Upper Tribunal, since our previous General Information Bulletin entry in May 2018:
 - CH/1718/17: The case raises the question of whether a first-tier tribunal was bound to follow the findings a previous tribunal had made about the claimant's capital in relation to an earlier claim. We have submitted that it was not so bound.

HB decisions by the Upper Tribunal

17. Decision Making and Appeals (DMA) Leeds is aware of the following HB cases that have been decided by the Upper Tribunal (UT):

- CH/2271/17, CH/2526/17 and CH/225/15: Removal of Spare Room Subsidy (RSRS). Claimant appeal dismissed. Carmichael followed.
- CH/2648/17: RSRS. Claimant appeal allowed. Room in question not a bedroom.
- CH/3777/14: RSRS. Remit. Nelson followed.
- CH/306/15: RSRS. Claimant appeal dismissed. Nelson followed.
- CH/1424/15: RSRS. LA appeal upheld. Carmichael followed.
- CH/222/15 and CH/278/15: RSRS. LA decision restored. Carmichael followed.
- CH/1813/17 and CH/21/17: RSRS. LA decision restored. Nelson followed.
- CH/2294/16 - Claimant's residence permit did not give her a right to reside. Once she reached the age of 21 she was no longer a family member and could not rely on this for a right to reside.

18. Decisions of the UT are published on their website which can be found on www.gov.uk

19. If you have any queries about cases before the UT Judges or courts, please contact us by email at fdmdma.customersupportservices@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or fax on 0113 232 4841.

New Legislation

20. The following Statutory Instruments (SIs) have been laid:

- 2018 The Occupational Pension Schemes (Master Trusts) Regulations 2018, coming into force in accordance with Regulation 1.
- 2018 No. 769 The Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Amendment Regulations 2018, coming into force on 28 September 2018
- 2018 No. 807 The Offshore Installations (Safety Zones) Order 2018, made on 2 July 2018
- 2018 The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2018, coming into force in accordance with Regulation 1.

21. Copies of SIs/Statutory Rules can now be downloaded from legislation.gov.uk

What's new on our HB pages on www.gov.uk

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

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB Direct issue 185	Editorial Transition to UC Housing Payment Review outcome of the LA Fraud Referral Process	<u>HB Direct issue 185</u>
HB G6/2018	Customer Information System Interest Automation Pension Strategy Computer System uprating Further reminder: Housing Benefit Debt Recovery data returns Decisions by the Upper Tribunal New Legislation What's new on our HB pages on www.gov.uk	<u>G6/2018</u>