10-21: Changes to the Exceptions to the Shared Accommodation Rate

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**Introduction**

1. This memo gives guidance on The Housing Benefit and Universal Credit (Care Leavers and Homeless) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, which come into force on 31.5.21

   1 The HB and UC (Care Leavers and Homeless) (Amendment) Regs
   
   SI 2021 No. 546

2. The regulations amend the age limits when considering renters excepted from the shared accommodation rate by

   2.1 extending the age of the care leavers exception from 22 to 25 and

   2.2 changing the lower age limit for the homeless hostel exception from 25 to 16.

**Note:** See ADM F3212 et seq for detailed guidance on the shared accommodation rate and the exceptions

**Shared Accommodation Rate**

3. When considering entitlement to a housing costs element, a specified renter\(^1\) is entitled to the shared accommodation rate\(^2\) only. However, there are several exceptions that allow certain vulnerable claimants to qualify for a higher rate.

   1 UC Regs Sch 4, para 28; 2 Sch 4, para 27
Changes to an “excepted person”

4. With effect from 31.5.21 one such exception is that the “excepted person”\(^1\) is aged at least 18 but under 25 and was a care leaver before reaching age 18\(^2\) (see ADM F3232)

\(1\) UC Regs, Sch 4, para 29(1); \(2\) para 29(2)

5. A further exception is that, with effect from 31.5.21, the “excepted person” is between 16 and 35\(^1\) and had, at any time, lived in a hostel for the homeless\(^2\) for a total of 3 months and, whilst there, were offered and accepted support services to aid their resettlement and rehabilitation (see ADM F3234)

\(1\) UC Regs, Sch 4, para 29(2); \(2\) para 29(10)

Annotations

Please annotate the number of this memo (ADM Memo 10/21) against the following ADM paragraphs:

F3212, F3232, F3234

Contacts

If you have any queries about this memo, please write to Decision Making and Appeals (DMA) Leeds, 3E zone E, Quarry House, Leeds. Existing arrangements for such referrals should be followed, as set out in Memo 7/19 Requesting case guidance from DMA Leeds for all benefits.

DMA Leeds: May 2021

The content of the examples in this document (including use of imagery) is for illustrative purposes only