

Freedom of Information request 873/2013

Received 25 February 2013

Published 03 May 2013

Information request

‘ When the Universal Credit pilots begin in several areas of the North West of England in April, will all of the current benefit claimants who live in those pilot areas be transferred to Universal Credit, or is it only people who make a new claim for benefit from April onwards in those areas who will go on to Universal Credit?’

DWP response

Universal Credit will be limited to those claimants who make a new claim within the Pathfinder areas from April 2013.

To be eligible to claim Universal Credit during Pathfinder claimants will, in summary, need to be:

- British Citizens who have lived continuously in the United Kingdom for at least two years;
- aged between 18 years and 60 years and 6 months;
- resident in the Pathfinder locations (but not owner-occupiers or in temporary accommodation);
- single;
- fit for work; and
- available for work or in work with low earnings (but not have earnings from self-employment).

Claimants must not:

- be receiving existing benefits;
- have capital above £6,000; or
- have children or any caring responsibilities.

Full details of who will be eligible to claim Universal Credit in the Pathfinder areas can be found in Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Universal Credit (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2013

(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/386/contents/made>).