

Temporary Absence from GB Amendments – Family Test

This is an application of the Family Test to the proposed change to the Temporary Absence from GB rules in Pension Credit using the guidance produced by the Department dated October 2014

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-test-assessing-the-impact-of-policies-on-families>)

1. What kinds of impact might the policy have on family formation?

The policy has no impact on couple relationship formation.

In order for a couple to be entitled to Pension Credit, they must already be members of the same household. This amendment does not change that requirement.

Pension Credit is an adult only benefit with no additional amounts paid in respect of children. This policy does not change that.

2. What kind of impact will the policy have on families going through key transitions such as becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities or the onset of a long-term health condition?

The policy allows an absence abroad from GB for up to 8 weeks (an extension on the proposed new basic rule of 4 weeks) where the absence is in connection with the death of a family member or close relative. Where the absence is in connection with medical treatment abroad, the allowable absence is up to 26 weeks. This allows a reasonable length of time outside of GB for those situations whilst still maintaining entitlement to the benefit.

The policy will have no impact on becoming a parent, getting married, fostering or adopting, redundancy or new caring responsibilities.

3. What impacts will the policy have on all family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities?

The policy will have no impact on playing a full role in family life in GB. The amendments only restrict the time abroad where entitlement to Pension Credit can continue. The policy does allow Pension Credit claimants to visit family (in the looser sense of the word) members abroad for up to 4 weeks as many times as they may like.

4. How does the policy impact families before, during and after couple separation?

The policy will have no impact on couple separation. There is no change to the Couple / "household" test.

5. How does the policy impact those families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown?

The policy has no impact on families most risk (e.g. alcohol dependency, gambling, domestic violence, imprisonment etc).

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Pension Credit Policy

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