

# Housing Benefit

## General Information Bulletin

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<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/>

**HB G7/2013**

**19 July 2013**

<b>Contact</b>	Queries about the <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>technical content of this bulletin</b>, contact details are given at the end of each article</li><li>• distribution of this bulletin, contact <a href="mailto:housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk">housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk</a></li></ul>
<b>Who should read</b>	All Housing Benefit (HB) staff
<b>Action</b>	For information

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## Universal Credit Local Authority Led Pilots

1. Ministers announced this week that the Local Authority (LA) Led Pilots will be extended by three months to December 2013 allowing us to continue to test innovative ways of working in partnership with local organisations.
2. Thirteen councils have run pilots since September 2012, exploring how their local expertise can improve support for residents claiming Universal Credit. Many of the pilots are building on existing strong partnerships whilst in other areas we are learning that it takes time to create effective and innovative partnerships that build on the ambitions and resources of local agencies.
3. We also plan to publish emerging findings as soon as we can. This is one step of many that will be taken to ensure that learning is shared. In addition, in line with a request from the LA representative bodies, we are now working with the pilots to ensure greater alignment with Local Support Services Framework.

## Council Tax Reduction Scheme

4. With immediate effect, LA staff need to be aware that there is a requirement for an LA customer to hold a fully verified National Insurance Number (NINo) in order for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction (HB/CTR) to be paid.
5. Therefore, if the HB/CTR customer does not have a NINo or has a NINo that is not verified and requires upgrading, a DC11 form must be completed and forwarded to the appropriate NINo Centre for action to be taken to allocate/upgrade a NINo.

## New DC11 form

6. From 15 July 2013, a new DC11 form is being implemented across the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and we would encourage its use by LA staff. The new DC11 form and guidance for completion are attached as appendix A and B to this bulletin.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this email please contact us at:

[Ninoexpertdomain.pointofcontact@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ninoexpertdomain.pointofcontact@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Statutory Instruments

7. The following Statutory Instrument (SI) has been laid
  - 2013 No.1754, The Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013, coming into force 1 October 2013

8. Copies of SIs can now be downloaded from DWP's own website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/law-volumes/the-law-relating-to-social-security/> and the website of the Office of Publication Sector Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm>

## What's new on the web

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

<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>HB A14/2013</b>	Q&A for HB Circular A13/2013 Universal Credit: Change of circumstances affecting HB	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a14-2013.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a14-2013.pdf</a>
<b>HB A15/2013</b>	Administration of the Benefit cap	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a15-2013.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a15-2013.pdf</a>
<b>HB G6/2013</b>	The Draft Social Security (Persons Required to Provide Information) Regulations 2013  Child Benefit awards queries  Personal Independence Payment: National go-live for new claims from 10 June 2013  Personal Independence Payments and hospitals  HB Overpayments queries  National implementation of the Benefit cap  Re-designation of spare rooms  HB/CTB cases awaiting decision by the Upper Tribunal  What's New on the Web	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/g6-2013.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/g6-2013.pdf</a>

<b>HB Direct issue 139 July 2013</b>	Newsletter	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/issue-139-july-2013.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/issue-139-july-2013.pdf</a>
<b>LA Consultation</b>	DWP/Local Authority Association Steering Group minutes January to June 2013	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/la-consultation-groups/sg-minutes.shtml">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/la-consultation-groups/sg-minutes.shtml</a>
<b>LA Consultation</b>	Practitioners Operational Group minutes January to May 2013	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/la-consultation-groups/pog-minutes.shtml">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/la-consultation-groups/pog-minutes.shtml</a>

### **HB circulars recently issued**

HB A14/2013

HB A15/2013