

Withdrawn

This publication has been withdrawn.

It is no longer current.

European Social Fund Provider Live Running Memo

To: European Social Fund Families providers **From:** Work Programmes Division

Memo Serial Number: 028 **Date:** 19 June 2013

Subject: National Rollout of the Benefit Cap

Action: For Information and action

Timing: Immediate

Background

DWP have already informed you that from April 2013 a phased rollout approach was being implemented to introduce a cap on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive.

We have now reached the next step of implementation and National rollout will start in July 2013 and be completed by the end of September 2013.

As previously advised, the level of the benefit cap will be set at £500 a week for couples/lone parents and at £350 a week for single adult households.

Claimants who may potentially be capped (based on their current circumstances) will have been contacted via letter.

This memo is to inform you of the changes.

Summary and action

DWP previously advised you that Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey Local Authorities would be the first to start to apply the benefit cap from 15 April 2013 as part of a phased rollout.

In line with existing plans, the remaining Local Authorities will apply the benefit cap from 15 July 2013 with all households identified being capped by the end of September 2013.

The National Implementation will be managed over a 10 week period and will be split into two tranches:

- Tranche 1: will include all Local Authorities with 275 households fewer to be capped, and will commence from 15 July 2013.

- Tranche 2: will include all Local Authorities with 276 or more households to be capped, and is likely to commence from the 12 August 2013. (Please note: some flexibility may apply to this date depending on the progress of Tranche 1).

The annex, attached below, provides a breakdown of the Local Authorities that will be included in each tranche based on the latest scan of households affected by the cap.

The tranche which a Local Authority will fall in to this is based upon this scan, and as such will not change even if numbers of potentially affected households change between now and July 2013.

The priority remains to support households into work, and towards a stable and sustainable working lifestyle. Therefore, it is your responsibility to continue to support families and help meet the individual needs of family members where unemployment crosses the generations to move them closer to the labour market and into employment that lasts.

If you receive queries from participants relating to the benefit cap you should refer them to Jobcentre Plus, the Benefit Cap helpline or their Local Authority.

Annex

[Annex – breakdown of tranches](#)

Further information contact details

All enquires on the subject of this memo should be raised with your Performance Manager in the first instance; they will endeavour to provide you with an answer as soon as possible.

Please note: DWP helpline numbers are available for individuals with benefit cap queries, but these are not intended to answer general queries.

- **English language helpline: 0845 6057064**
- **Welsh language helpline: 0845 6057066**
- **Text-phone: 0845 6088551**

The helpline is open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.

Regards

ESF Provision Policy Team