

UNIVERSAL CREDIT – MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS 2020

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INTRODUCTION

1. This memo gives guidance on changes to UC introduced by the Universal Credit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2020 (UC (Misc Amdts) Regs 20) ([SI 2020 611](#)). The changes take effect from 13.7.20¹.

1 UC (Misc Amdts) Regs 20, reg 1

EARNINGS THRESHOLD CALCULATION APPLIED TO GRACE PERIOD

2. For households where the benefit cap is applied through Universal Credit there can be a period of 9 months, known as a grace period, during which time their benefit may not be capped.
3. To qualify for a grace period, the household earnings must have been at least the relevant earnings threshold for the previous 12 months/assessment periods.
4. In UC, when the earnings threshold has been met, the benefit cap grace period is to be calculated using the national living wage **as at the beginning of each month or assessment period** in which the claimant was working.
5. As the amount of the national living wage changes each year, this clarification will ensure that the correct amount of national living wage, relating to the time when the work was undertaken, is used to calculate whether a grace period

applies¹. Due to this change, the reference to £430 will be removed as it is no longer relevant.

1 UC Regs, reg 82(5)

EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH AN AWARD

6. Where

1. a claimant's award of UC includes an amount in respect of housing costs **or**

2. the award may be revised or superseded to include such an amount,

a landlord must supply information or evidence in connection with the award, or any question arising out of it, as the Secretary of State may require. This must be done within one month of being required to do so or such longer period as is considered reasonable¹.

Note: If the landlord fails to provide the relevant information or evidence within the appropriate timescale, please see ADM A4310.

1 UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs, reg 38(9)

ANNOTATIONS

Please annotate the number of this memo (Memo ADM 14/20) against ADM paragraphs:

A2118 (heading), E5052, E5053

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: July 2020

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