



Pension Credit notes

We have many different ways we can communicate with you.

If you need braille, British Sign Language, a hearing loop, translations, large print, audio or something else please contact us.

Our contact details are:

- Phone: **0800 99 1234**
- Textphone: **0800 169 0133**
- Relay UK: **18001** then **0800 99 1234**.

If you live in Wales and want these notes in Welsh call **0800 99 1234**.

The quickest way to claim Pension Credit is online. A friend or family member can help you do this. To make a Pension Credit claim online, go to **www.gov.uk/pension-credit**

Please note that you can only make a claim online if you have already applied for your State Pension.

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Treating people fairly

We are committed to the Equality Act 2010 and treating people fairly. To find out more about this law, search 'Equality Act' on www.gov.uk

Using these notes

These notes tell you more about Pension Credit and help you fill in your claim form.

What is Pension Credit?

Pension Credit is a tax free payment for those who have reached the qualifying age and live in Great Britain. By Great Britain we mean England, Scotland and Wales.

Have I reached the qualifying age?

The qualifying age is the earliest age you can get Pension Credit. It is the same as State Pension age which is currently 66.

To find out when you can apply for Pension Credit, read the 'Other information' part of this booklet on page 18. Or visit [**www.gov.uk/calculate-state-pension**](http://www.gov.uk/calculate-state-pension)

Who should apply?

If you and your partner have both reached the qualifying age, either one of you can apply. However, only one of you can get Pension Credit at any one time. This will be for both of you. We can help you both to decide who should apply.

Claiming Pension Credit as part of a couple

From 15 May 2019, if you are in a couple you will be eligible to start getting Pension Credit only if:

- you and your partner have both reached Pension Credit qualifying age, or
- one of you has reached Pension Credit qualifying age and you are entitled to Housing Benefit as a couple for people who have reached that age. The person who has reached the qualifying age must be the one who applies for Pension Credit

If you are not eligible for Pension Credit, you may be able to apply for Universal Credit instead. Or, if you or your partner are getting Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance, you may be able to continue getting that benefit.

If you started getting Pension Credit before 15 May 2019 and you are in a couple

Before 15 May 2019, you could claim Pension Credit as a couple if either one of you had reached the qualifying age. If you started getting Pension Credit before then but your entitlement has stopped for any reason, for example through your circumstances changing, you will not be able to get it again unless you (or your partner) are eligible under the new rules. You cannot get Universal Credit and Pension Credit at the same time. If you or your partner claim Universal Credit your Pension Credit will stop.

If you get Pension Credit and you are single

You will stop getting Pension Credit if you start living with a partner who is under Pension Credit qualifying age. You may be able to start getting it again when your partner reaches Pension Credit qualifying age.

How much is Pension Credit?

The amount of Pension Credit you get depends on how much money you have coming in each week and how much you have saved or invested. For information about the latest Pension Credit rates visit

www.gov.uk/pension-credit

What if I make a mistake on the form?

If you make a mistake on the form and you are filling it in with a pen, just cross it out and put your initials next to it. You do not need to fill in another application form.

What if I do not know the answer to a question or I have not got a document you ask for?

If you cannot fill in all the application form because you do not have the information needed or you cannot send us a document we ask for:

- tell us why you cannot give us the information or documents in the 'Other information' part of the application form, and
- send us the application form straight away so that we can decide if we can pay you.

About you

Use this part of the application form to tell us your personal details.

Your phone number

It is useful for us to be able to phone you if we have a question about your application. This saves time and could save you having to fill in more forms.

National Insurance (NI) number

You can get this from your National Insurance number card, letters about benefits, payslips or form P60.

About your partner

If you have a partner, use this part of the application form to tell us your partner's personal details. We use 'partner' to mean:

- a person you are married to or you live with as if you are married to them, or
- a civil partner or a person you live with as if you are civil partners.

Living in a care home

If you or your partner live permanently in a care home, you should not apply as a couple. Each of you should fill in your own application form. If you live together as a couple in a care home, you can make a joint application.

About any child/children and qualifying young people you want to claim for

Use this part of the form to give us details of any children or qualifying young people you wish to claim for.

To receive an additional amount for a child or qualifying young person you must:

- have main responsibility for a child or qualifying young person
- normally live with the child or qualifying young person
- not be claiming Tax Credits or have been entitled to Tax Credits in the previous year.

Where the form refers to a 'child', you should also use this to tell us about any qualifying young person you are claiming for.

A child and qualifying young person

A child is a person under the age of 16.

A qualifying young person is someone who has reached the age of 16 but not the age of 20 who is enrolled on, or accepted for approved training or a course of non-advanced education (for example, studying for GCSEs or A-levels). The approved course or non-advanced education must be provided by a school or college where the studies on average are more than 12 hours per week.

Non-advanced education does not include:

- a postgraduate degree or comparable qualification
- a first degree or comparable qualification
- a diploma of higher education
- a higher national diploma, or
- a course of study which is above advanced GNVQ or equivalent, a general certificate of education (advanced level), or a Scottish national qualification (higher or advanced higher).

Approved training is arranged under certain legislation and approved by the Secretary of State, including foundation learning and access to apprenticeships.

Where the young person is aged 19, they must have started the education or training, been enrolled on or accepted for it before that age.

Responsibility for a child or qualifying young person

You are responsible for a child or qualifying young person if they normally live with you, but not if you live together with the qualifying young person as a couple.

If you share responsibility for the child with another person who is not a member of your household, please let us know.

A child being looked after by a local authority

A child is classed as being looked after by a local authority if the local authority has responsibility for that child's maintenance and care or provides accommodation for the child as part of its social services duties.

A child in foster care is classed as being looked after by a local authority.

A child is not classed as being looked after by a local authority if they are in care for a planned short break or series of breaks to provide respite for their usual carer.

Claiming Tax Credits

If you claimed Tax Credits in the last year and the award is still ongoing, you will not be eligible for the child addition component of Pension Credit. Instead, you will need to contact HM Revenue and Customs to add the child to your Tax Credits claim.

Your award may be classed as ongoing in these circumstances:

- you are still receiving payments from HM Revenue and Customs
- you have been asked to renew your Tax Credits but have not yet responded
- you have been awarded Tax Credits but are not currently receiving payments.

If you have not claimed Tax Credits in the last year, you may be eligible for the child addition component of Pension Credit.

By 'Tax Credits' we mean Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Great Britain

When we mention 'Great Britain' on the application form, we mean England, Scotland and Wales.

About where you live

Use this part of the form to tell us about where you live. We need to know this because you may be able to get help with rent, Council Tax or other housing costs. For example, you may be able to get help with service charges or mortgage payments.

People living in my household

When you tell us about people who live in your household, tell us about anyone else who lives with you, including:

- relatives, including your grown-up children
- boarders and lodgers
- friends.

You do not need to tell us about:

- people who just share a hall, bathroom or toilet with you
- other residents if you are staying temporarily in a care home.

Help with rent and Council Tax

If you or your partner are responsible for paying rent or Council Tax for the place where you live, you may get help with the cost through Housing Benefit and Council Tax reduction. We can now help you apply for Housing Benefit at the same time as you apply for Pension Credit.

If you wish to apply for a reduction in your Council Tax, or find out more about this, please contact your local authority.

Help with service charges (in Scotland, called ‘factoring’)

You may need to pay for the upkeep of communal areas or services. You may need to pay for the maintenance of parts of the property. These are called service charges. If you pay these, you may get extra Pension Credit. Please send us proof of your service charges, even if it is a small amount. For example, your tenancy agreement or a letter asking you for service charges.

Help with ground rent (in Scotland, called ‘ground annual’)

If you live in a leasehold property, you may have to pay an annual rent to the land owner. This is called ground rent. If you make these payments, you may get extra Pension Credit. Please send us proof of your ground rent, even if it is a small amount. For example, your tenancy agreement or a letter asking you for ground rent.

If I am a Crown tenant, pay chief rent or other rent charges

If your landlord is the Crown or a government department, this can be a Crown tenancy. ‘Chief rent’ is money paid for freehold properties to the Lord of the Manor. If you pay similar types of rent, you should also tell us about this.

If you or your partner are a Crown tenant, pay chief rent or other rent charges, please tell us in the ‘Other information’ part of the form. Tell us how much rent you are charged and how much is included in the rent for water. We will get in touch with you if we need more information.

Help with your mortgage or home loan

If you get Pension Credit (or are going to be treated as though you are) and have a mortgage or home loan, you may be able to get help with the interest.

This help would be in the form of a loan provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. Please fill in the form 'MI12 – Pension Credit for people with a mortgage or home loan'. Then send the completed form MI12 to your mortgage or home loan lender. After they have filled in the rest of the form, they will send it back to us.

If you are getting Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, we may not have given you form MI12 because we already have the information we need.

More than one mortgage or home loan with different lenders

You could have a mortgage from a building society and a home improvement loan from a bank. If you have a mortgage or home loan with more than one lender, please tell us in the 'Other information' part of the application form. We will send you a form 'MI12 – Pension Credit for people with a mortgage or home loan' for you and each lender to fill in.

About money you have, including savings and investments

Use this part of the application form to tell us how much your savings and investments add up to. Also tell us whether or not you own, or jointly own, any property or land in this country or abroad – other than the place where you live.

The amount of savings, investments, property or land that you or your partner have may change how much Pension Credit you get.

If your savings and investments are more than £10,000, please fill in form 'PC1H – More information about money, savings and investments'.

How do savings and investments change Pension Credit?

Savings and investments of £10,000 or less do not change how much Pension Credit you will get.

If you have savings and investments of more than £10,000, we do not count the first £10,000. Above £10,000, we count each £500 or part of £500 as income of £1 a week.

Types of savings and investments I need to tell you about

By 'savings and investments' we mean:

- money in a current account, even if you use the account to pay your bills so the balance changes
- a savings or deposit account, even if you have to give notice to withdraw the money
- money in any other bank, building society or Post Office account
- National Savings Certificates
- money saved for something
- Premium Bonds
- investments like Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs), Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) and TESSA only ISAs (TOISAs) - these were the tax-exempt special savings accounts which ended in 2004
- an income bond, capital bond or Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond
- unit trusts or shares
- any other money, property or investments you or your partner have in this country or abroad.

Do I need to include any money I have at home?

Yes. We need to know how much money you and your partner have, even if you keep it at home to pay bills or for any other reason.

Do I need to include my partner's savings and investments?

Yes. You need to include your partner's savings and investments, including shares. You do not need to tell us about your partner's savings if you are separated from them, or if they are permanently in a care home.

Do I need to include shares if I do not know how much they are worth?

If you have shares you must tell us about them. Stocks and shares are not straightforward. For example, the current value of your shares is not the value printed on the share certificate. You can check the current value in the FTSE index in most newspapers. If you are not sure how to find out the value of your shares, or if you have any other questions, you can call us on **0800 99 1234**.

What types of property or land do I need to tell you about?

You need to tell us about any other property or land that you or your partner own in this country or abroad, even if you have a mortgage or loan to pay for it.

This could be:

- a holiday home
- property that you rent out
- property that you own but relatives are living there
- a timeshare property
- stables
- farmland or a paddock.

You do not need to tell us about the place where you normally live, even if you own it outright.

About benefits

Use this part of the application form to tell us about:

- Carer's Allowance, Carer Support Payment or an extra amount of Universal Credit paid to someone who is caring for you or your partner, or
- Carer's Allowance, Carer Support Payment or an extra amount of Universal Credit which could not be paid to someone who is caring for you or your partner because they are already receiving another benefit. For example, if someone already receives Incapacity Benefit or Employment and Support Allowance, they cannot be paid Carer's Allowance, Carer Support Payment or an extra amount of Universal Credit as well.

About pensions

Use this part of the application form to tell us about any pensions you or your partner have. You do not need to tell us about any State Pension paid. Please include any pension that is paid to someone else on your behalf. Also tell us if you or your partner expect to get a pension in the next 12 months.

What proof of pensions do I need to send you?

Please send us your latest pension payslip, if you have one, or anything else that shows how much you get or will get. Do not send us form P60.

Sending documents

Any documents you send us as proof of a pension should be originals.

They should show:

- who pays the pension
- when you get the pension
- any money taken off your pension
- how often the pension is paid
- how much is paid
- when you get a pension increase
- the rate at which the pension increases.

I have paid into a private pension scheme but do not get any money from it. Do I need to tell you about it?

Yes. Tell us if you or your partner have paid into a private pension scheme, even if you do not get any money. This could be because you have:

- chosen to put off getting money from the scheme
- not claimed money that you could have claimed
- a retirement annuity contract which you have not used to buy an annuity.

Tell us as much as you can about this in 'Other information'. Please send us proof of how much the pension would pay and how often.

What type of pension do I need to tell you about?

Tell us about all the pensions you or your partner have. For example:

- a pension, superannuation or other money from a place you, your partner or your late partner used to work
- money from a private pension scheme – for example, from a pension or insurance company
- a Civil List pension – these are personal awards given by Her Majesty the Queen
- money from an annuity, even if it is not a pension – for example, a home income plan
- any War Pension or Armed Forces Compensation payment paid by the British government. You do not need to send proof of a payment from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
- Police and Firefighters disablement pension
- Police and Firefighters widow's pension
- Iron and Steel Employees Readaptation Benefits Scheme
- Redundant Mineworkers Pension Scheme
- Shipbuilding Redundancy Payments Scheme
- a pension received from abroad
- a pension paid to victims of National Socialist persecution
- the Pension Protection Fund
- the Financial Assistance Scheme.

About work

Use this part of the application form to tell us about:

- self-employed work you or your partner have retired from, or left for any reason in the last 3 months
- any paid work that you or your partner are doing at the moment.

What types of work do I need to tell you about?

The types of work we need to know about are:

- any work for an employer
- permanent or casual work
- self-employed or subcontracting work.

Do I need to tell you about work I do not get paid for?

No. We do not need to know about unpaid work.

I am working and am not sure if I can get Pension Credit. What should I do?

If you are working and are not sure whether to apply for Pension Credit, please get in touch with us for advice. You can call us on **0800 99 1234**.

About other money coming in

Use this part of the application form to tell us about other money you or your partner have coming in. Please include any money that is paid direct to someone else on your behalf. Also tell us if you or your partner expect to start getting money in the next 12 months.

Does all money coming in change the amount of Pension Credit I can get?

No. It depends on what the money is. Please give us as much information as you can about the money you or your partner have coming in. This will help us make sure you get as much Pension Credit as you can.

What type of money do I need to tell you about?

Please tell us about any of the following types of money you or your partner have coming in. For example:

- money from someone who rents a room in your home or who lives in part of your home – for example, a boarder, lodger, tenant or subtenant
- Working Tax Credit
- royalties or money for a book registered under the Public Lending Rights Scheme
- money from your ex-partner to pay for day-to-day living costs. You do not need to send proof of this type of income
- benefits from abroad
- money from a war disablement pension or war widow's or widower's pension from abroad
- sick pay
- regular payments from a trust
- money from an equity release scheme
- money from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. You do not need to send proof of this.

Do not tell us about benefits or State Pension we pay you. We already have this information.

What proof of money coming in do I need to send you?

If you have any money coming in, please send us proof with your application form. Send us the original statement or any other official document that shows the amount you get and when it is paid.

This could be a:

- statement from the person or company that pays the money
- court order
- bank statement showing the amount paid
- payment advice slip.

Proof of money

If we do not get proof of the money you are paid, it may change the date we can pay you Pension Credit from.

Any documents you send us as proof of the money you have coming in should be original documents. They should show:

- who pays the money
- when you get the money
- the amount you get, or the amount you expect to get
- what the money is for.

What happens to my documents?

We will return your documents to you. We will do our best to do this within 5 working days of getting them.

I cannot get any proof of the money I have coming in. What should I do?

If you cannot get proof of the money you have coming in, please tell us why in the 'Other information' part of the application form. Send us your application form straight away – we may still be able to pay you Pension Credit.

Other things we need to know

This part of the application form tells you other things we need to know about.

Some questions we have asked help us to decide if you and your partner have a right to reside in the United Kingdom (UK), Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland.

What is meant by 'right to reside'?

For example, you have the right to reside in the UK if you are a British citizen.

By right of reside we mean you:

- are free from immigration control, and
- do not need the permission of an immigration officer to enter the UK, and
- can live and work in the UK without restriction.

How do I know if the Home Office has put a limit on how long I can stay?

It will be clearly marked on one of the pages of your passport.

A change in immigration status

If you are not a British or Irish citizen and your immigration status changes, we need to know. If you are a European Union, European Economic Area or Swiss citizen and were living in the UK by 31 December 2020 but have not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, you and your family must apply straight away. If you have lived in the UK for 5 years or more in a row, you can apply for settled status.

If you have pre-settled status this will not expire. It may be beneficial for you to apply for settled status if you have lived in the UK for 5 years or more in a row.

When you want to apply from

Use this part of the application form to tell us the date you want to apply from. The qualifying age is the earliest date you can get Pension Credit from. It is the same as State Pension age which is currently 66. The content of the examples in these notes is for illustrative purposes only.

The qualifying age

Tick this box on the application form if:

- you reached the qualifying age in the last 3 months or you will reach it in the next 4 months, and
- you stopped full-time work before the qualifying age, or you plan to stop work before you reach the qualifying age.

Example 1 – Tom

Tom's date of birth is 1 October 1955. Tom will reach the qualifying age on 1 October 2021 when he is aged 66. He works full-time until this date. He fills in his application form in June 2021. Tom could get Pension Credit from 1 October 2021, so he ticks the box marked 'qualifying age' on his application form.

Another date

Tick this box and fill in the date on the application form if:

- you think you had too much money coming in to get Pension Credit, but think the money has gone down since, or
- you think you have too much money coming in to get Pension Credit now, but in the next 4 months you expect to have less money coming in.

Put the date the money went down, or the date you expect the money to go down, and tell us why you are choosing the date.

Example 2 – Bob

Bob is 66. He was earning £270 a week until he stopped work on 6 January 2021. Bob thinks he was earning too much money to get Pension Credit before he stopped work on 6 January 2021. Bob ticks the box marked 'another date' on his application form. He tells us he stopped work on 6 January 2021 and he was earning £270 a week.

If it is too early to apply

It is too early to apply if:

- you are under the qualifying age, and you will not reach that age in the next 4 months, or
- you are still working full-time and you do not plan to stop work within the next 4 months.

If you are not sure what date to choose, you can call us on **0800 99 1234**. We can help you decide which date to choose.

How does the date I want to apply from change what I need to tell you?

If the date is in the past

If the date you want to apply from is in the past, tell us in the 'Other information' part of the form. We need to know about any changes between what you have told us on the application form and the date you have chosen.

The things you need to tell us about in 'Other information' include:

- if you become responsible for a child or qualifying young person, or a child or qualifying young person leaves the household
- changes in your children or qualifying young person's circumstances, including when they reach age 16 and 19
- time spent by you or your partner in hospital as an inpatient
- time spent out of Great Britain
- changes to your money coming in
- periods in prison
- periods of employment or self-employment
- changes to your savings and investments – you do not need to tell us about changes to your savings and investments if they are and always have been less than £10,000
- if you or your partner have been admitted into a care home
- if you or your partner have moved out of a care home
- if you had a partner who separated from you in the last 3 months
- if you had a partner who died in the last 3 months.

Example 3 – Mary

Mary's date of birth is 1 November 1954, so she reached the qualifying age on 1 November 2020. She worked part-time for several years but stopped in December 2020. She fills in her application form in February 2021. Mary thinks she could get Pension Credit from her qualifying age, so she decides to tick the box marked 'qualifying age' on the application form. Mary tells us the application form about her part-time earnings from the date she reached the qualifying age.

If the date is in the future

Tell us in 'Other information' if you expect anything you have told us on the application form to change before the date you want to apply from.

Example 4 – Hussain

Hussain's date of birth is 6 August 1955. So he will reach the qualifying age on 6 August 2021. He expects to stop work in June 2021. He fills in his application form in March 2021. Hussain thinks he will get Pension Credit from June 2021, when he stops work. He must tell us about his work, including the date he expects to stop work, on the application form.

Other information

Use this part of the application form to tell us any other information about your circumstances.

What type of things should I tell you about?

Please tell us:

- if your partner is living away from you – for example, because they are working away from home
- about any children or qualifying young people you did not have space on the form to tell us about
- if you or your partner have more than one mortgage lender or home loan lender
- if you or your partner are a Crown tenant, if you pay chief rent or pay other rent charges
- about any property or land you or your partner own, apart from the place where you live
- if you or your partner pay business rates on any part of the place where you live
- about any pensions you did not have space to tell us about
- if you or your partner have gone into a care home
- if you or your partner have moved out of a care home
- about a private pension scheme you have paid into but do not get any money from
- if, within the last 28 weeks, you or your partner have regained your sight after being registered blind
- about anything we have asked in the ‘When you want to apply from’ part of the form. If you tell us about changes to money coming in or savings or investments, please send us proof of the changes
- if you or your partner have ever received a lump-sum payment as a result of putting off claiming State Pension. Please tell us about the amount of the award
- if you or your partner care for someone who is receiving Attendance Allowance, Pension Age Disability Payment, Child Disability Payment at the middle or highest rate of the care component, Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate of the care component, Personal Independence Payment (either standard or enhanced rate) or Adult Disability Payment (either standard or enhanced rate).

Tax

If you complete a Self Assessment tax return and pay your tax direct to HM Revenue and Customs, please tell us how much Income Tax you will pay or expect to pay for the current tax year. This is because Pension Credit takes account of your income after tax, including any tax due in respect of your State Pension, which is taxable. Telling us about the tax you pay helps us make sure you are getting the correct amount of Pension Credit and may mean that you get more.

You can find out more about Income Tax at www.gov.uk/income-tax

You can also use ‘Other information’ to tell us about anything else you think we need to know about.

How we pay you

Use this part of the application form to give us the information we need to pay you.

We normally pay Pension Credit into an account. Many banks and building societies will let you collect your money at the post office.

How often will you pay me?

If you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2010, we will pay your Pension Credit to you weekly in advance.

If you reach State Pension age on or after 6 April 2010, we will normally pay you 4 weekly in arrears. This means we will work out your Pension Credit for a 4 week period and then pay this to you at the end of each 4 weeks.

You may have been getting Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit before applying for Pension Credit. We will continue to pay you in the same way, if this is how you want to be paid.

You should tick the box on the application form which asks you how often you want to be paid.

What account can I use?

You can use:

- an account in your name
- a joint account, or
- someone else's account, if
 - the terms and conditions of the account allow this, and
 - they agree to let you use the account, and
 - you are sure they will use your money in the way you tell them.

If you are an appointee or a legal representative acting on behalf of the customer, the account should be in your name only.

You can use a credit union account. You must tell us the credit union's account details. Your credit union provider will be able to help you with this.

How will you pay me?

We will tell you when we make the first payment and how much it will be for. We will tell you if the amount we pay into the account will change.

How can I find out how much you have paid into the account?

You can check your payments on your account statements. The statements may show your National Insurance number next to any payments we have made. If you think a payment is wrong, get in touch with us straight away.

Can someone else collect my Pension Credit for me?

You may be able to get someone else to collect your Pension Credit for you if you wish. For help with this, please contact your bank, building society or credit union.

What if we pay you too much money?

We have the right to take back any money we pay you that you were not entitled to. For example, you may tell us that the money you have coming in has changed, and this might mean you will get less Pension Credit. If the change has already happened, we may have paid you too much Pension Credit. We will need to take back the money we should not have paid you.

We will contact you before we take back any money.

Remember, you need to tell us about any changes that you know will be happening in the future.

I have an account but I do not want to use it. What can I do?

You may have an account but do not want to use it – for example, a joint account. Any bank or building society will help you open an account that suits you better. Remember to ask if the bank or building society account allows you to get your money from a post office, if this is important to you.

I do not have a suitable account. What can I do?

If you do not have a suitable account, any bank or building society will help you open an account. If you want to get your money at a post office, check that the account allows you to do this.

If you have had problems opening a current account, or if you are worried about being overdrawn, you could ask any bank or building society about opening a basic bank account. These are available from all major banks and offer free banking and stop you from taking out more money than you have. You can use these accounts to pay money in, pay bills automatically, and get cash out. Many basic bank accounts also allow you to get cash from post offices.

Or, you can be paid into some credit union accounts. These accounts may not provide all services. Fill in the Pension Credit application form and send it to us. Do not wait until you have opened an account. Please tell us your account details as soon as you have them.

Your declaration

Important

It is important that you sign and date the application form. If you do not, we will have to send it back to you.

If you give wrong or incomplete information, or you do not report changes, you may be paid the wrong amount. You will have to pay back overpaid money when told to do so. You could also be prosecuted or need to pay a financial penalty. If we pay you less than we should, we may pay you the money that we owe you.

Can I sign the application form for someone else?

You should only sign the application form on behalf of someone else if:

- the person who is making the application is not mentally able to act on their own behalf, and
- you are willing to act on their behalf in all social security matters, including telling us about any change in their circumstances and collecting their money for them.

You should not sign the application form for someone who is mentally able to manage their own affairs. Someone who is physically disabled but mentally able will not normally need someone to act for them.

I want to act for someone who is not mentally able to manage their own affairs. What happens next?

We will get in touch with you to arrange a visit to see you and the person making the application. This will help us decide whether the person needs someone to act on their behalf for all social security matters. We call this person an 'appointee'. We will explain to you the responsibilities of an appointee.

I have power of attorney for the person making the application. What should I do?

If you have power of attorney or any legal authority to act on behalf of the person making the application and the Department has approved your authority to act on behalf of the person making the application, you can sign the application for them. Please let us know if we have accepted the authority before, so that we can check our records.

If the Department has never approved the legal authority, please contact us so that we can discuss this with you. Our phone number is **0800 99 1234**.

What to do now

Use this part of the application form to tell us which documents you are sending us.

Before you send us your application form, please check that you:

- are sending us all the original documents to support your claim - for example, payslips, proof of a private or works pension
- have answered all the questions that apply to you and your partner, if you have one
- have signed and dated 'Your declaration'.

Put your application form and other documents in the envelope, if an envelope provided. This envelope does not need a stamp.

Send it to us as soon as you can.

If you do not send original documents, it may change the date we can pay you Pension Credit from.

What happens to my documents?

We will return your documents to you. We will do our best to do this within 5 working days of getting them. If you are worried about sending us original documents, you can send them by recorded delivery or by registered post.

If we need more information

Sometimes we will need more information to deal with your application. If we need more information, we will usually phone you. This saves you having to fill in more forms. But if we cannot contact you by phone, we may need to send you another form to fill in.

If you need help

You can call us on **0800 99 1234**.

If you have speech or hearing difficulties you can contact us using a textphone on **0800 169 0133**.

If English or Welsh is not your first language, you can ask for an interpreter.

This booklet gives general information only and is not a complete statement of the law.

EEA and Swiss nationals

EEA and Swiss nationals need to have an EU Settlement Scheme status

The United Kingdom (UK) has left the European Union (EU). If you are a European Economic Area or Swiss national, you and your family members need to get a UK immigration status to carry on living in the UK after 30 June 2021.

You and your family need a status even if you have already been issued with a permanent residence document by the Home Office, or have been living in the UK for a long time. You need to apply for an immigration status to be eligible for benefits. This includes new and existing claims to benefits.

It is free to apply for a UK immigration status. Irish nationals and those with indefinite leave to remain in the UK do not need to apply.

For more information and to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme please visit www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme or call **0300 123 7379**. You do not need to contact DWP when you apply or get a status. If DWP need details about your status they will contact you.

How DWP collects and uses information

When we collect information about you we may use it for any of our purposes.

These include:

- benefits and allowances
- child maintenance
- employment and training
- investigating and prosecuting tax credits
- offences
- private pensions policy and
- retirement planning.

We may get information about you from other parties for any of our purposes as the law allows to check the information you provide and improve our services.

We may give information about you to other organisations as the law allows, for example to protect against crime.

To find out more about our purposes, how we use personal information for those purposes and your information rights, including how to request a copy of your information, please visit www.gov.uk/dwp/personal-information-charter

