

## 03-26: Removal of the Two Child limit

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### introduction

1. This memo gives guidance on the Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Act 2026, which comes into force on 6.4.26.<sup>1</sup>

1. [UC \(Removal of Two Child Limit\) Act s1](#)

### Background

2. Since 6 April 2017 the child element (CE) of Universal Credit (UC) has been awarded only in respect of the first and second child or QYP for whom the claimant is responsible, unless an exception applies. (the two-child limit)<sup>1</sup>

1. UC Regs, [reg 24A and Sch 12](#)

### Changes

3. From 6.4.26 that limit is removed and a CE will be payable in respect of any child or QYP the claimant is responsible for. (ADM [F1056](#)) The ordering of children and QYPs, and whether any exceptions apply, no longer needs to be considered.
4. An amount in respect of any child or QYP for whom the claimant is responsible will be included in their award of UC in the AP commencing on or after the 6.4.26<sup>1</sup>.

6. However, the two-child limit must still be applied when considering entitlement to a CE for any period prior to 6.4.26.

1. UC Regs, [reg 24A, 24B](#) and [Sch 12](#)

## **Annotations**

Please annotate this Memo at the side of the following ADM paragraph: [F1004](#)

## **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: March 2026