DMG - Volume 8: ESA
Chapters 41- 47

Summary of changes from December 2020

October 2026

Chapter 44
Update relates to the new income and capital disregards for (i) the Irish Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme introduced by SI 2026/1063 and (ii) the Church of England Redress Scheme introduced by SI 2026/1072. Chapter annotated to new DMG Memo 04-26.

July 2026

Chapter 44
"CDP" and "SADLA" added to the list of benefits to consider when determining whether a non-dependant deduction is appropriate – see paragraph 44606.
Memos 07/23, 12/23, 04/25, 06/25, 08/25, 01/26 and 02/26 incorporated at paragraphs 44084, 44101, 44113-44116, 44139, 44156-44160, 44168-44171, 44180-44190 and 44611.

April 2026

Chapter 42
Corrections made in LCW Schedule.
DMG Memo 02/26: giving guidance on the 2026 Up-rating

Chapter 46
Paragraph 46223 - DMG Memo 02/26: giving guidance on the 2026 Up-rating

Chapter 44
DMG Memo 01/26 'The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 (Carer's Assistance) (Consequential Modifications) Order 2026'. This memo gives guidance on The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 (Carer's Assistance) (Consequential Modifications) Order 2026 which came into force on 15.03.26. Chapter amended to link to memo.

January 2026

Chapter 44
Following changes have been made to include the DMG 05-25 Uprating Memo:

Appendix 3 to Chapter 44: Value added

Chapter 46
Paragraph 46223: Link removed, values changed, Appendix 1 updated.

August 2025

Chapter 41
Incorporation of DMG Memo 12/23.

Chapter 44
DMG Memo 08/25 to be noted against DMG paragraph 44611.

April 2025 updates

DMG Memo 06-25: Legacy Benefits and State Pension Credit - The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 (Disability Assistance) (Consequential Amendments) Order 2025, added with cross references to the DMG Abbreviations, Statutes & S.I. lists plus DMG chapters 61, 35, Vol 1 Annex A, 02, 04, 03, 04, 53, 23, 41, 44, 78, 20, 28 & 86
Chapter 44
New DMG Memo 5/25: and uprating amendment to Appendix 3

Chapter 46
New DMG Memo 5/25: and uprating amendment to para. 46223

February 2025 updates

Chapter 42
Descriptor Schedules now included in the Chapter

Chapter 41: ESA - conditions of entitlement
Minor change to paragraph 41031.

November 2024 updates

Chapter 46: Payment questions

Note added at para. 46223, which specifically provides the rate deducted for the tax year 2018/2019. For all subsequent tax year, the rates are shown in Appendix 1.

The changes are following benefit rate increases introduced by the Social Security Benefits Uprating Order 2023 (SI 2024/242, the Social Security (Contributions) (Limits and Thresholds, National Insurance Funds Payments and Extension of Veterans Relief) Regulations 2024 (SI 2024/249) and the Social Security Benefit Uprating Regulations 2024 (SI 2024/386).

October 2024 updates

Chapter 44
DMG Memo 02/24 incorporated at Appendix 3.

Chapter 45
A new Appendix 2 is inserted. This is the former DMG memo 11/18: IB Reassessment – Arrears of ESA(IR)

Chapter 42
A new Appendix 2 is inserted. This is the former DMG memo 1/18: ESA, work-related activity and substantial risk.

September 2024 updates

Chapter 42
Minor updates on hospitalisation and LCW, at DMG paragraph 42072.

May 2024 updates

Chapter 41
Minor update.

Chapter 42
Minor amendment.

December 2023 updates

Chapter 44
Minor amendments: – Legal ref amended at paragraph 44139

44167 has been amended to make clear that a CP can be paid to both members of a couple if they satisfy the conditions. Legal ref added.

The heading and broken link to “New and Existing Housing costs – general provisions 44888 – 44495” has been removed as those paragraphs were removed in February 2019.

November 2023 updates

Chapter 41
The amendments add a note to refer to the removal of restrictions on claiming UC for mixed-age couples, add a note about the National Living Wage, add qualifying benefits to the list of partners who are regular carers and treated as not in remunerative work, and update the NMW rate for 2023.

September 2023 updates

Chapter 46
Note at paras. 46301 and 46363 amended and example added to paras. 46307 and 46366.

July 2023 updates

Chapter 46
Note added under paragraphs 46301 and 46363 read as follows–

Note: Whether it is in the interest of the claimant or their family to apply a deduction or not, the claimant must be given the opportunity to make representations regarding whether it is in their interest before deductions are imposed. For further information please refer to operational guidance.

May 2023 updates

Chapter 44
DMG Memo 15/21 incorporated – payments disregarded when considering the income of non-dependants (para. 44611).

DMG Memo 02/21 incorporated – living in other accommodation because of fear of violence – one of them may attract owner-occupier payments (para. 44256).

Up-rating DMG Memos 04/21, 07/22 and 4/23 incorporated (Appendix 3).

DMG Memos 09/21 and 03/22 incorporated – when considering whether a non-dependant deduction for housing costs is appropriate CDP added to the list of benefits to consider when deductions should not be made (para. 44606).

DMG Memo 12/22 incorporated – ADP commences/converted from PIP/DLA whilst a claimant is in hospital – entitlement to SDP will have to be considered (para. 44179).

DMG Memo 06/22 incorporated – definition of terminally ill (para. 44005).

Para. 44180 Example 2 amended to make clear a couple in respect of lower rate SDP will not lose their entitlement after 28 days when one member goes into hospital.

DMG Memo 3/22 incorporated – ADP added to the list of benefits when considering entitlement to premiums and the effect on non-dependants when considering housing costs (paras. 44101, 44112–44114, 44116, 44118, 44181, 44606, 44611).

Note added to para. 44139 to make clear it is the date of the claimants/partners right to occupy the dwelling that we consider.

Para. 44102 amended to make clear housing costs are included in any calculation of entitlement to ESA(IR). ESA(IR) does not have to be in payment before housing costs can be considered.

April 2023 updates

Chapter 46
DMG Memo 09/22 (IS, SPC, IR ESA, IB JSA - Temporary cease on third party deduction request by fuel suppliers for ongoing consumption) originally would have ceased to have effect from 6 April 2023 but will now be revoked effectively from when The Social Security Benefits (Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/232) makes a permanent change to the process for requesting deductions from benefit for ongoing consumption payments from 1 April 2023. It will require new requests, or requests for increased deductions, to be made by energy suppliers and such deductions will only be made with the claimant's consent. Paragraphs 46310 and 46326 have been updated to reflect the new changes effective from 01/04/2023.

February 2023 updates

Chapter 42
Paragraphs 42140 to 42169 updated to take into account that a health professional's statement can now be made electronically without the requirement for a signature.

January 2023 updates

Chapter 42
DMG 20/20 deleted – (it was not to be incorporated as for past cases only and these have all been dealt with now). Hyperlinks to memo deleted from DMG Chapter 42.

DMG Abbreviations
List amended to change "Her Majesty" to "Her/His Majesty" in HM, HMF and HMRC.

Chapter 42
DMG Chapter 42 at para 42550 updated to use the abbreviation HMF.

December 2022 updates

Chapter 42
Amendment to DMG para 42324 and the examples in 42325. This amendment makes the paragraph easier to follow

November 2022 updates

Chapter 42
DMG Chapter 42 by incorporating DMG Memo 10/22 at 42324-25 and DMG Memo

6/22 at 42035.

July 2022 updates

Chapter 41
The amendments to DMG Chapter 41 incorporate Memo DMG 8/20 about the effect of parental bereavement leave on whether the claimant's partner is in remunerative work, Memos DMG 9/21 and 3/22 about the education exclusion not applying to claimants entitled to child or adult disability payments, and Memo DMG 6/22 about the change to the definition of terminal illness, and update the LEL and NMW rates.

Chapter 41
This amendment incorporates Memos DMG 9/21 and 3/22 about the education exclusion not applying to claimants entitled to child or adult disability payments, Memo DMG 6/22 about the change to the definition of terminally ill, and updates the LEL and NMW rates.

Chapter 42
This incorporates Memo DMG 19/20 about the removal of mandatory reconsideration where an award of ESA can be made pending an appeal.

November 2021 updates

Chapter 42
Changes incorporate DMG 3/21 and alters paragraph 42021

October 2021 updates

Chapter 42
Amendments to DMG paragraphs 42021, 42480, 42755 to incorporate DMG Memo 3/21

May 2021 updates

Chapter 41
The amendments include additional guidance on late payment of contributions, updates the lower earnings limit in appendix 2, and makes miscellaneous changes.

February 2021 updates

Chapter 41
The amendment is to include the National Minimum Wage rate from 1.4.20.

December 2020 updates

Chapter 44
DMG 44163 gives guidance on the Shared Lives Scheme when considering the SDP and non-dependants. The **Note** to this paragraph has been amended to make clear just who is or is not a non-dependant, especially in relation to the carer's own household.