

# 2-Child Limit Ending!

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From April 2026, the DWP are removing the two-child limit on Universal Credit. The two-child limit impacted families who had their third, or subsequent, children after April 2017, meaning that they did not receive any money in their UC or tax credits for those children.

The 2-child limit is being abolished, meaning that families will now be able to receive support for **all** of their children, not just the first two (or children born before April 2017!)

The additional child elements (worth £292.81 per month) will be paid in your UC payments from May 2026 onwards— as UC is paid monthly in arrears. Families who have been impacted by the 2-child limit do not have to do anything; the money will be automatically added to their May UC payments.

We really welcome this news, as we know it will make a huge impact on families who have been struggling.

**HOWEVER**, with families getting more income through the additional child elements, there is a risk that households will now be subject to the **benefit cap**. The benefit cap limits the *total* amount of benefits that

households can get each month. It is implemented by reducing your Universal Credit to a set amount; £1,229.42 per month if you are single and don't have children, or £1835 per month if you are a couple, or single parent, with children.

Certain families will be exempted from the benefit cap. You will not be subject to the benefit cap if :

- You (or your partner, or your child) gets certain disability or carer's benefits— like child/adult disability payment , your UC contains the LCWRA or carer's elements, or industrial injuries disablement benefit, to name a few.
- You (and/or your partner) earn enough, after tax and national insurance, through employed or self-employed earnings to be exempted. This is currently £846.56 net per month.

If you do not meet the criteria to be exempted from the benefit cap, then your UC will be reduced to bring your total benefit amount down to the capped amount. To mitigate the benefit cap, and the impact that this will have on families, you can apply for a discretionary housing payment (DHP) to help cover the shortfall the benefit cap may cause.

If you think you may be subjected to the benefit cap incorrectly, you can appeal any decision. Similarly, if you would like help to apply for a DHP payment, or unsure if you will be subjected to the benefit cap, please contact the Welfare Rights Service for help and advice.



# Scottish Child Payment Managed Migration

The Scottish child payment is a weekly benefit for low-income families in Scotland with children under the age of 16. From 2026 this will rise slightly in line with inflation to around £28.20. This builds on earlier rises that took the payment from £10 in 2021.

The Scottish government has announced plans for the Scottish child payment to rise to £40 per week for under 1-year olds and this is hoping to start 2027/2028.



This is quick reminder that if you've not received a migration notice to move to UC and you (or your partner) are under pension age, to please contact the Welfare Rights Service urgently! Many working-age benefits, such as housing benefit, income-based ESA and JSA, are coming to an end. If you do not migrate over to UC by the deadline, then your payments will stop, and you could have less money when you do move onto UC. If you are unsure if you should have had a migration notice, please contact the Welfare Rights Service as soon as possible!

# Update to Carer's Supplement Payment

The twice a year payment of Carer's Allowance Supplement is changing and will be known as the Scottish Carer's Supplement instead! From March 2026, unpaid carers will see an important change in how extra support is being paid.

Previously, people in receipt of Carer's Support Payment (CSP) would be paid a lump sum twice a year— usually in June and December. The supplement payments will instead, now be paid either weekly or 4-weekly to claimants in receipt of CSP.

This means carers will get more regular and consistent support rather than waiting for 2 lumps sums a year. When paid alongside the weekly carer support payment it works out to about £11.29 per week (or £45.16 every four weeks).

You have to be in receipt of CSP (formerly carer's allowance) to qualify. Only getting the carer's element on your Universal Credit isn't enough to be awarded the carer's supplement payment.

If you are in receipt of CSP on 15th March 2026, you do not need to anything— the payments will be made automatically, and you'll get a letter informing you that you are now getting the supplement payments. If you are one of the few people in Scotland who is still in receipt of Carer's Allowance, you will continue to be paid the twice-yearly lump-sum payments until you are transferred over to Social Security Scotland.



# Work Capability Changes

At present, if you are unable to work due to ill-health or a disability, and you have been handing in sick lines (a fit note) to the DWP whilst you are claiming Universal Credit (UC), you will need to undertake a Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The DWP will send you a medical questionnaire, called a WCA50 form, to complete and return. If you receive one of these forms, you can contact the Welfare Rights Service for help to fill it in.

After you've returned your form, you may be asked to attend a medical assessment with one of the DWP's Health Care Professionals- these are usually conducted over the phone, but you may be asked to attend one in person, or via a video link.

From 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026, if you are found to have 'Limited Capability for Work and Work- Related Activity' (LCWRA) for the first time, then the LCWRA element that is added to your UC will be worth £217.26 per month, which is half of what existing claimants of LCWRA will be entitled to.

The current LCWRA rate of £423.27 per month will remain in place for existing claimants, those who are terminally ill, and those who meet the criteria of a 'severe condition' claimant.

If you are not sure if you would qualify for the LCWRA element on your UC, please contact the Welfare Rights Service for a benefit check.



## State Pension Age Increasing!

The State Pension Age (the age at which you can claim your state pension) is increasing from April 2026; rising from 66 to 67 for those who are born between 06/04/1960-05/04/1977. The age at which you can claim your state pension will rise incrementally so some people won't be able to claim their pension at age 66- instead they may have to wait until they are, for example, age 66 years and one month old! You can check your state pension age online at [www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age)

You don't need to stop work just because you have reached your state retirement age; you can choose to keep working and not claim your state pension. This is known as 'deferment', and can mean that your pension increases in value for when you do choose to claim it. If you are getting certain benefits, then these may stop once you reach your pension age.



Normally, the DWP will write to you with an invite letter to claim your state pension three months before you reach your pension age. If you'd like to know more about your state pension, when you may reach your state pension age, or what your entitlement to benefits may be once you reach state pension age, please get in contact with the Welfare Rights Service on 0141 578 0200!

# Annual Rent Increase Winter Payments



It's that time of year again, when the DWP will soon be issuing 'to-dos' for you to input your new rent figure. It's important that you update your journal with your new rent as soon as possible to ensure

that you're not left with rent arrears that you'll need to pay back.

Most tenants who receive Universal Credit will be able to wait for the 'to-do' reminder on their journal. But if your assessment period ends on 28th, 29th, 30th or 31st of March (meaning that you get paid on 4th, 5th, 6th or 7th April) you should log onto your journal and report your new rent through your journal's home page under the 'Where you live, and what it costs' page.

You'll also get a 'to-do' in April, just like everyone else, that you should also complete. If you would like help to report your new rent figure, please get in touch with the Welfare Rights Service, who will be happy to help you out!

The **Winter Heating Payment** from Scottish Social Security, is paid automatically if you are in receipt of income-based JSA/ESA, Income support, UC or Pension Credit. The one off payment of £59.75 started to be paid automatically from December 2025 onwards. The payment will show up on your bank statement as SSS WHP (or PAWHP if you are over pension age!)

Many people will also have received their Warm Home Discount of £145 from their energy supplier, but if you've not received your payments as of yet, don't worry!

Most payments are due to be issued by 31st March 2026, and if, by April, you've not received your payment, please contact the Welfare Rights Service for further help.



As you may know we keep a record of the extra money people have received as a result of using our advice services. Since the service came into being in the area in 2005 we have generated over

**£10,193,744.97**

from increased income, lump sum grants and a reduction in debts.

For the financial year 2025/26 alone, so far the figure is

**£863,950.94**

## Performance figures

It is important that we keep a record of these figures, so if we helped you to claim a benefit, or just helped sort out your claim, please remember to let us know the outcome so we can update our records.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Hillhead Housing Association 2000  
2 Meiklehill Road, Hillhead  
Kirkintilloch,  
Glasgow G66 2LA

**Tel:** 0141 578 0200

**Email:** [admin@hillheadhousing.org](mailto:admin@hillheadhousing.org)

**Website:** [www.hillheadhousing.org](http://www.hillheadhousing.org)



**Morag Bisset**

Welfare Rights Officer

Tel: 01417768631

**Heather Montgomery**

Income Maximisation Assistant

Tel: 0141 776 8630