

Welfare Rights Newsletter



June 2021



Extra Help for Carers

From April 2021, Carer's in Scotland will have their earnings threshold increased to £128 per week. This means that if you work, and earn up to £128 per week, you will be able to continue to receive Carer's Allowance. Anything above this level will mean that you are no longer entitled to Carer's Allowance.

The first payment of the Scottish Carer's Allowance Supplement for 2021 is due to be released in June. To qualify, you must have been in receipt of Carer's Allowance on 12th April 2021. The payment will be £231.40. A second payment of £231.40 is also due to be paid in December, if you were in receipt of Carer's Allowance on 11/10/2021

The payments will be made automatically to those who qualify, and you will receive a letter from the Scottish Government advising you of this.

Tax Credit Renewals

It is that time of year again when you need to make sure you renew your tax credit claims. You can do this online, by telephoning the helpline on **0345 300 3900**, or by returning your completed form. You should have received your renewal notice and forms in the

post from HMRC. It is important that you respond before **31st July 2021** in order to finalise your previous award and to update the income information for the ongoing award. **If you do not do this your tax credits will stop and you may even have to pay some**

money back.

If you fail to renew your Tax Credits in time, your claim will be closed, and you won't be able to make a new claim for Tax credits. You'll need to claim Universal Credit, which could mean you are entitled to less income, as UC is calculated differently to tax credits.

EU Settlement Scheme

If you are an EU national who has been resident in the UK prior to Brexit (31/12/2020), and you have not done so already, you need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). If you have not registered your claim, and been awarded settled or pre-settled status, then your entitlement to benefits will stop on 30/06/2021.

The EUSS is free to apply to, and every member of your family who is not a British Citizen should apply. You can apply online here: <https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus>

If you are unsure of your status regarding your immigration status, or would like help to apply to the EUSS, please contact the welfare rights officer who can refer you onto specialist organisations.



Changes to Universal Credit

From 31/07/2021, self-employed people who are in receipt of UC will have the Minimum Income Floor (MIF) reapplied to their earnings. The MIF was suspended during the Covid-19, but is going to be reinstated from August.

If you have been running your business from more than a year, then a MIF will be applied to your UC.

The MIF is based on how much the DWP 'expect' you to earn- an assumed income amount- rather than how much you actually earn. The DWP base the MIF amount on the number of hours you agreed to work with your work coach multiplied by the national minimum wage.

E.g If your claimant commitment

says that you are looking to work 16 hours per week, then your MIF will be 16 hours x £8.91 national minimum wage= £142.56 per week/£617.76 per month.

If you earn less than your MIF amount, then UC will treat you as having earned your MIF amount. If you earn over your MIF amount, the DWP will base your UC on the higher amount, which would be your earnings.

If you have concerns about how the MIF will impact upon your UC entitlement, please do not hesitate to contact the welfare rights officers for further assistance.

Universal Credit's £20 per week 'uplift' which was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic was extended for 6 months in April 2021, meaning

UC Universal Credit

that it is scheduled to come to an end on 06/10/2021.

This means that rather than the standard allowance being £411.51 per month for a single adult, and £596.58 for a couple, from October 2021, your UC standard allowance will be reduced., meaning your overall award is likely to decrease.

Whilst this change is a while a way, please start to think about your budget going forward from October 2021.

If you have any questions about your UC entitlement, please contact Morag the Welfare Rights officer on 07458 309043 or 0141 776 8631.

Hillhead Housing Association 2000, 2 Meiklehill Road, Hillhead, Kirkintilloch G66 7LA

Phone: 0141 578 0200 ■ Fax: 0141 578 4817 ■ Freephone: 0800 0523 188

E-mail: admin@hillheadhousing.org ■ Web: www.hillheadhousing.org ■ [@HHA_2000](https://twitter.com/HHA_2000)