


# **BEDFORDSHIRE BENEFITS NETWORK**

18 September 2024

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# **UNIVERSAL CREDIT MANAGED MIGRATION**

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## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Managed migration timetable

- Any type of legacy benefit claimant could now get their managed migration notice
- This includes claimants of ESA (IR) with or without HB
  - Previously they were being left until 2028, but
  - This has now been brought forward until end of 2025, with notices starting this month
- Timetable for other types of claimants broadly the same

## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Tax Credits

- Legislation has been passed to bring Tax Credits to a close for good on 6/4/2025.
- It is no longer possible to claim CTC if you previously only got WTC, and vice versa

## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Pensioners

- Some pensioners claim Tax Credits, due to low paid work, responsible for children, or both
- So, pension age Tax Credit claimants have to be migrated too
- Those on WTC will be migrated onto UC
- Those on CTC, without any entitlement to WTC, will be migrated onto PC
- Same migration process and transitional protections – except the deadline will be no later than 6/4/2025 as Tax Credits must close by then
- Transitional protection for 12 months from deferred state pension counting as notional income
- No transitional protection for savings if migrating to PC

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## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Pensioners (continued)

- Protection for mixed age couples (MACs)
- MACs who have claimed either PC or HB since before 14/05/2019, can claim the other benefit
- These MACs on HB and Tax Credits could get a managed migration notice.
- If they choose not to claim UC, HB ends – but regs allow them to reclaim HB within 3 months of HB ending

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## MANAGED MIGRATION


### Discussion

- What issues have we seen in the last 6 months?
- Please share your experiences

## BENEFIT UPDATES




# UNIVERSAL CREDIT OTHER NEWS



## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

### **Administrative Earnings Threshold changes**

- The amount claimants earn is used to decide whether or not they are required to look for more work. The AET defines where this line is
- For single claimants this has changed from £793pm to £892pm
- For couples this has changed from £1189pm to £1437pm
- Changed from 13/05/2024



## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

### Some other changes to regulations

- An NI number is now required for a UC claimant to get an advance
- Children placed with UC claimants for adoption are no longer treated as 'looked after' and can attract Child Element

## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

### Caselaw

- SSWP v JA 2024 UKUT52(AAC)
- Claimant had the SDP transitional element after moving to UC due to changing local authority area
- They then moved again into exempt accommodation, so claimed HB for this and stopped getting UC Housing Costs element
- Then they moved back out of exempt accommodation. HB ended and UC HC element reapplied
- The UC HC element being awarded 'eroded' the SDP transitional element entirely
- Court decided this discriminated against claimant as their circs otherwise didn't change and as this would only happen to someone who needed exempt accommodation, this was discriminatory
- DWP is appealing

# OTHER BENEFIT NEWS

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## CHILD BENEFIT

### Earnings Threshold changes

- From April 2024, the lower earnings threshold for Child Benefit has changed from £50k to £60k
- The higher earnings threshold has changed from £60k to £80k
- Claimants over the lower threshold pay some of the CB back in tax
- Claimants over the higher threshold pay it all back in tax, or don't claim at all
  
- Currently assessed on individual income even for couples
- From April 2026, couples will be assessed jointly instead

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## STATUTORY SICK PAY

- New Labour government announced planned changes (not yet implemented):
- Removal of minimum earnings to qualify for SSP (currently £123 per week)
- Removal of waiting days
- Alongside this they also plan to ban zero hour contracts

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## PENSIONERS

- Winter Fuel Payments were paid to all pensioners every winter
- WFPs will now only be paid to claimants of:
  - Pension Credit
  - Working-age means-tested benefits: UC, IS, IB-JSA, ESA(IR)
- A successful claim for Pension Credit including entitlement THIS week can secure the WFP. 3 months backdating so have up to 21/12/2024 to get claims in
- Labour has committed to keep the triple-lock for State Retirement Pensions
- In other news, another group of pensioners have been identified who may have missed out on some pension:
  - Get new state pension, and late spouse either retired or died before 06/04/2016

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## OTHERS

### Health assessment contracts

- From 09/09/2024, Serco now performing WCA and PIP assessments in Bedfordshire
- Still separate assessments for now

### Explicit Consent

- It should now be possible to set explicit consent for up to 6 months instead of up to 2 months