


# **BEDFORDSHIRE BENEFITS NETWORK**

10 September 2025

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# **UNIVERSAL CREDIT MANAGED MIGRATION**

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## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Managed migration timetable

- Mainly only ESA(IR) are left to migrate to UC
- DWP plan remains to be for last migration notices to go out by end of 2025.

## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Stats up to June 2025

- 2.1m migration notices sent to 1.6m households
- 1.6m claims made by 1.2m households
- 600k claims awarded transitional protection
- 340k individuals sent migration notices did not claim UC
  - NB: This was lower than last meeting?
- 162k claims were pending at the time

## MANAGED MIGRATION

### Discussion

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

## BENEFIT UPDATES

# The Universal Credit Act 2025

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## THE ACTUAL CHANGES PLANNED

- New lower rate of LCWRA element from April 2026 for new claimants (£217.26pcm, rate frozen until 2030), except the below who will get higher rate (currently £423.27pcm):
  - Terminally ill
  - Judged to meet 'severe conditions criteria'
- Severe Conditions Criteria:
  - 'Constantly' meet one of the LCWRA descriptors
  - Lifelong condition
  - No realistic prospect of recovery of function
  - Unambiguous condition formally diagnosed

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## THE ACTUAL CHANGES PLANNED

- Above inflation increases to Standard Allowances until 2030
- LCWRA elements also increased to ensure recipients get at least inflation rate rise when added to their standard allowance
- LCW rate also frozen until 2030

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## THINGS THAT WERE SCRAPPED

- All proposed changes to PIP
- Restricting under 22s from getting LCWRA
- Abolition of the Work Capability Assessment
- Linking LCWRA entitlement to PIP entitlement
- Amalgamation of contribution based JSA and ESA

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# UNIVERSAL CREDIT OTHER NEWS

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## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

### **'Fair Payment Rate'**

- Max % of deductions was set to 15% from 30 April 2025
- Priority order of deductions changed, top 6 are now:
  1. Fraud penalties
  2. Conditionality sanctions
  3. Short term advances
  4. Flat rate Child Maintenance
  5. First month advance
  6. Budgeting Advance
- Deductions can still be over 15% to include Child Maintenance, and also rent arrears if DWP considers it to be in claimant's best interests. Max is still 40%

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## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

### Increased checks

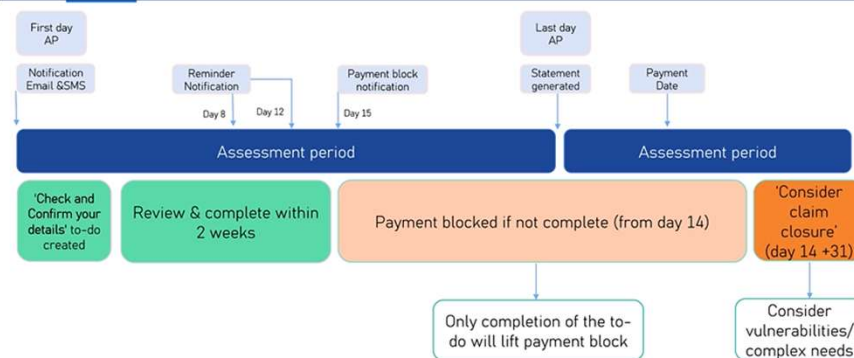
- A sample of claimants reporting self-employed earnings will be required to provide proof
- Annual review of claims, with claims suspended and then closed if claimants do not respond
  - Check looks like the same process of confirming new claim, where claimant declares info is correct or says it's wrong and gets a to-do to provide correct info

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## ANNUAL REVIEWS

### Automated Claim Review - Timeline

UC



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## ANNUAL REVIEWS

### Excludes:

- Terminally ill
- Joint claim: partner recently bereaved
- Prisoners
- Homeless
- Claims suspended (for other reasons)
- For now while they figure it out:
  - Phone claims
  - Corporate appointees
  - Ineligible partners

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## OTHER BENEFIT NEWS

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## STATUTORY PAYMENTS

- Previously announced plans to extend SSP will apply from April 2026
  - Removal of lower earnings threshold
  - Removal of waiting days:
- **Statutory Neonatal Care Pay**
  - Payable to parents of children who are admitted to neonatal care within 28 days of birth and for at least 7 continuous days
  - Awards lower of £187.18pw or 90% of earnings, for 12 weeks

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## WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS

- After being restricted to only those on Pension Credit last winter, the government has u-turned and said all pensioners will receive it again
- Those with taxable income of £35,000 or more will see the payment clawed back via the tax system, or they can opt out if they prefer
- Assessed on individual basis, so some couples might see one get a payment and not the other

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## CRISIS & RESILIENCE FUND

- A new fund for local authorities called the Crisis and Resilience Fund to be introduced (from 2026/27?)
- But this is created by removing/combining **Discretionary Housing Payments** and **Household Support Fund**

## OTHERS

### **New Capital Disregard**

- New disregard introduced for capital for Miscarriage of Justice Compensation Payments

### **New Habitual Residence Test exemptions**

- UK nationals returning from a country/territory where UK government has advised them to leave or evacuated them. Applies for 6 months from the advice or evacuation
- Foreign nationals holding immigration status under a safe and legal humanitarian immigration route, exempt until leave expires

## OTHERS

### Child Benefit

- From 1 September 2025
- Education provided outside of school/college no longer needs to have begun before child turned 16 to provide entitlement to CB
- Education can be considered full time even if less than 12 hours per week if it is reduced due to illness or disability

## FUTURE OF PIP

## FUTURE OF PIP - DISCUSSION

### Timms Report

- We are due to see a report chaired by Stephen Timms in Autumn 2026, with recommendations on the future of PIP
- This is apparently not to focus on cuts
- Some of the proposed ideas we've seen:
  - Replacing monetary payments with adaptations and funding
  - Restricting criteria, such as the proposal to limit to those who score at least 4 points for a daily living activity
  - Combining PIP/WCA assessments
- What are your thoughts/concerns about the future of PIP?