

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE



Semington, near Trowbridge

01380 871007

www.ilc.org.uk



Latest Benefits Information – 30/4/2020

Universal Credit

The Department for Work and Pensions is warning that a claim for Universal Credit will bring any Tax Credit and Housing Benefit claims to an end. If there is no entitlement to Universal Credit, **you won't be able to reclaim any Tax Credits or Housing Benefit.** It is advisable to seek advice before making a claim for Universal Credit. If you do claim Universal Credit, you still have to make a separate claim for Council Tax Reduction through your local Council.

Employment and Support Allowance/Jobseekers Allowance

If you become unemployed through sickness or are laid off and are currently in receipt of Tax Credits and/or Housing Benefit you may be able to claim New Style Employment and Support Allowance or New Style Jobseekers Allowance - they are both dependent on payment of National Insurance contributions but **they are not a claim for Universal Credit** so your Tax Credits and Housing Benefit claims are not ended.

Pension Credit

If you (and your partner) are in receipt of State Pension, you may be entitled to Pension Credit - this is means tested so any other income and savings will be taken into account. You can find out if you are entitled by ringing the Pension Credit helpline on 0800 99 1234.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

You can still make a claim for PIP by phoning the new claim line on 0800 917 2222. There are three steps to complete - initially provide some information on the phone, complete a paper claim form and undergo a medical assessment. During the coronavirus outbreak face to face assessments have been replaced by phone assessments.

If a PIP award is due to end, the government have extended the end dates and so no one is currently being sent a review form.

Appeals

If you have received a benefit decision and want to challenge it, you must ask for a Mandatory Reconsideration by phone within a month of the date on the decision notice. If the decision is unchanged or you want to challenge a new decision you can make an appeal to the Tribunals Service within a month of the new decision. The appeal can be made online at the Gov.uk website or a paper appeal can be posted.

A survey by the Disability Benefits Consortium shows that almost all disabled people have seen an increase in expenditure due to the coronavirus outbreak. Many charities have demanded an increase to all out of work benefits not just Universal Credit.

Contact us

Please email us on welcome.ilc.semington@googlemail.com if you would like advice about any of the above issues or if you have any benefit enquiries. If you would prefer to phone, please call us on **01380 871007** and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible, although it will take a little longer than email as answer machine messages are not being checked daily.

**The Independent Living Centre,
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