

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE



Semington, near Trowbridge

01380 871007

www.ilc.org.uk



Latest Benefits Information – 19/5/2020

Universal Credit

It has been announced that the Government is actively looking into what can be done for tax credit claimants who have lost their entitlement due to applying for Universal Credit. In the meantime, they have stated that they are looking into updating the Gov.uk website to ensure it is “crystal clear” when people apply for Universal Credit that their Tax Credits will automatically be stopped. As of yesterday when I checked, the website has not been updated. So be aware that any tax credit award will end as soon as an application for Universal Credit is made, even where the application is not successful, (for example if capital levels are too high) – you will not be able to return to tax credits.

Carers Allowance

Normally if carers have a temporary break in caring, their Carers Allowance will stop. The Government have confirmed that carers can retain Carers Allowance if the break is due to the carer or the cared-for person being isolated due to coronavirus. Emotional support counts towards the rule that carers provide at least 35 hours of care per week.

Note: Receiving Carers Allowance can sometimes stop the cared-for person receiving the Severe Disability Premium in their own benefits. If there is any doubt, it is best to seek advice.

Post Office Card Accounts

New applications for Post Office accounts ended from 11/5/2020 – this does not affect people with an existing account. If someone is unable to be paid benefits into a bank or building society account, they will be offered payment via the HMG Payment Exception Service when they make a new claim.

Pension Credit

People of pension age can now apply for Pension Credit online – previously it was only possible to make a claim over the phone or via a paper claim. The online claim can be made using the Gov.uk website.

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.

To see previous editions of this newsletter, please visit the news section on our website at ilc.org.uk

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