

Moving onto Universal Credit

When claimants on existing benefits move onto Universal Credit this is known as migration. There are two types of migration: natural migration and managed migration.

Natural migration

Claimants in a Universal Credit Full Service (UCFS) area cannot make new claims to any benefit that Universal Credit is replacing. These are:

- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA(IB))
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance (ESA (IR))
- Housing Benefit (HB)
- Income Support (IS)
- Child Tax Credits (CTC)
- Working Tax Credits (WTC)

If an existing benefit claimant in a UCFS area has a change of circumstances that means they would have to make a new claim to one of those benefits or credits, they will not be able to do so, and must make a claim for Universal Credit.

The exceptions to these are:

- where a claimant is receiving Severe Disability Premium (SDP) as part of a legacy benefit or were receiving it within the last calendar month and still meet the SDP qualifying condition
- where a claimant wants to claim housing costs because they are in or have moved to Supported Accommodation or Temporary Accommodation. In these cases they can still make a new HB claim and be treated as having underlying entitlement to Universal Credit housing costs. This ensures the Universal Credit claimant still qualifies for any relevant Work Allowance and remains eligible to apply for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) should they require additional assistance