

Escalation of sanctions in Universal Credit Desk Aid (claimants aged 18+)

Sanction	Applicable to:	Duration (See notes ¹ & 4)		
		1 st failure no same-level sanctionable failure date 365 days preceding the current failure	2 nd failure earlier same-level sanctionable failure date occurred in 365 days preceding the current failure	3 rd or subsequent failure (note ^{1&2} – 2 nd or more same-level sanctionable failure date occurred in the 365 days preceding the current failure
Higher Level e.g. failure to retain or take up paid work	Claimants subject to all work-related requirements	91 days (See notes ² &3)	182 days (See notes ² & 3)	1095 days (See notes ² &3)
Medium Level e.g. failure to undertake all reasonable action to obtain work	Claimants subject to all work-related requirements	28 days	91 days	
Low Level e.g. failure to undertake particular, specified work preparation action, failure to attend interview	Claimants subject to 1. all work-related requirements, or 2. work preparation and work-focused interview requirements	Open-ended for number of days from failure to day before compliance plus		
		7 days	14 days	28 days
Lowest Level Failure to participate in a work-focused interview	Claimants subject to work-focused interview requirements only	Open ended for number of days from failure to day before compliance		

1 Period does not escalate if the failure date is in the 13 days following a previous same-level sanction

2 High level pre-claim failures (lose or leave work/pay or refusal to take up paid work) do not escalate the duration of a following failure

3 High level pre-claim failures

- are reduced by the number of days between the failure and the date of claim.
- If the work the claimant failed to retain or failed to take up was due to last for a limited period, then the sanction is limited to the number of days between the failure and end of that limited period.

4 The maximum length of time for which a sanction can be outstanding is 1095 days (3 years)