

Our Ref: Fol 2039

Date: 8 May 2018

Dear Cllr Chris Cooke,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 21 April 2018. You asked:

Question 1

What happens when a person previously on jsa (And claiming housing benefit) starts employment at 16 hours in a full service area when the below condition is a factor

1) The person has child tax credit and the HMRC add the legacy element for working tax added to their account

Does applying for universal credit for housing benefit also mean her child tax and working tax will stop and also go under universal credit.

Question 2

If universal credit does replace the above as mentioned is this information also publicly available for people to see. I have looked myself however i can only find information based on a person claiming UC without any other legacy benefits active

Question 3

In situations such as this has the DWP researched the morality and the serious complications this could have on a person.

For example if they were entitled to working tax and child tax on a legacy payment and then forced to claim UC under housing benefit which then also replaces their WT and CT this person would be left destitute and will not be able to pay many of their bills. Not only that if the person suffers with depression and starting this work is a means to help the person stay more active this effect could also make the depression worse and have serious implications.

The same goes if a person has other illnesses and although being able to get into work is a great achievement for them on the road to recovery being left in a situation such as this could also have drastic consequences.

DWP Response

The Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question.

Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

Therefore, to be helpful, I have provided the following information that I hope you find useful in responding to your enquiry.

The links below allow you to access 'Universal Credit and you' and 'Universal Credit' which are published on www.Gov.uk and provide more information about Universal Credit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-you>

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF

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