



Resources to help you give advice on Covid-19

Benefits update

Impact of Grants and Schemes

[LA Welfare Bulletin 4/20](#) defines the following payments for Housing Benefit:

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme ([SEISS](#)): *"a payment of taxable income received from self-employment. The SEISS payment is part of the self-employed income assessment for the tax year in which it is received."*

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ([CJRS](#)): *"enables employers to continue to make payments to their employees of taxable earned income, which continue to be treated as earned income in HB. This continues to be based on the number of hours the employee normally works, which enables the additional earnings disregard in HB to remain applicable. HMRC have confirmed that any WTC will initially remain in payment for the first 8*

weeks. We will update you if this position changes."

The [bulletin](#) also confirms that an ending of childcare costs will not be treated any differently, so will result in the costs being removed from a claim.

Regarding Childcare - Universal Credit (UC)

The DWP has updated their guidance for childcare costs during the outbreak and clients are being informed that childcare costs will only be paid to those who are key workers.

This has been confirmed on the GOV UK [page](#):

"Government advice is that childcare is only available to children of critical workers and vulnerable children during the coronavirus outbreak. [...]

Whilst the government's response to coronavirus is in place, unless you are a critical worker or a parent of a vulnerable child or children, you will not be able to access childcare."

This may be problematic for those who have already paid for care in advance or those whose childcare providers are requesting payment to secure a place.

The rules for childcare for UC under [Regulation 35](#) of the UC regulations, do specify that the childcare must be 'provided' to be covered.

If you are unsure, you can refer to the government's list of [critical workers](#) and [vulnerable children](#), as well as discussing this with your work coach.

More information available [here](#).