



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

## **DWP Update 07.10.20**

### **Expansion of education and training to all over 18s**

This week the Prime Minister announced a major expansion of post-18 education and training to prepare workers for the post-COVID economy.

This includes a Lifetime Skills Guarantee to give adults the chance to take free college courses valued by employers. It also includes a new entitlement to flexible loans to allow courses to be taken in segments, boosting opportunities to retrain and enhancing the nation's technical skills.

[Find out more](#)

[The Skills Toolkit](#), which provides free courses to help people learn new skills or get a new job, has also been expanded to more than 70 courses in digital, numeracy and employability or work-readiness courses.

### **Video Relay Service for Pension Credit and Social Fund**

Video Relay Service (VRS) has been extended and is now available for people claiming [Pension Credit](#) and those seeking support from [Social Fund](#).

This service allows customers to make an inbound call to DWP via a British Sign Language interpreter using a video connection. There is no need for anyone to be in the same location and customers do not have to book the service in advance.

### **Warm Home Discount Scheme goes live for winter 2020/21**

The Warm Home Discount is a government scheme that obligates the UK's largest energy suppliers to credit £140 discount onto the electricity bills of certain low income households.

Customers who get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit will receive a letter by mid-December advising whether the discount will be paid automatically by their energy supplier, or if they need to contact the helpline.

The helpline opens on 12 October 2020 (Tel: 0800 731 0214) and people will need to confirm their eligibility before 26 February 2021.

A limited number of discounts are also available to other low income households. Non Pension Credit customers should contact their energy supplier for further information.

[Find out more](#)

### **Personal Independence Payment - Three Way Call Information**

The following information on three way calls has been included on the PIP pages on GOV.UK:-

"If you need someone to help you, ask DWP to add them to your call when you:

- phone
- use Relay UK

- use the video relay service

You cannot do this if you use textphone.

If you cannot use any of these, someone else can call on your behalf, but you'll need to be with them when they call."

This has been included on the following sections – How to Claim, Change of Circumstances and Claiming PIP if you are terminally ill.

### **Work and Health Programme (WHP) Job Entry: Targeted Support (JETS) Launched in England and Wales**

JETS targets eligible customers who have been unemployed for at least 13 weeks and are in receipt of UC, or New Style JSA. The programme provides 6 months' support and specialist advice on how to move into growing sectors, as well as CV and interview guidance and opportunities to build skills to get into employment. This is an expansion of the existing WHP. In Scotland, where WHP does not operate, a commercial procurement is underway to put in place similar provision in January 2021. [Find out more and Q&A](#). [View press release](#) .

### **HMRC Easements**

HMRC has increased the [threshold for paying tax liabilities](#) to £30,000 for Self Assessment customers to help ease any potential financial burden they may be experiencing due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### **Homelessness Reduction Act**

The Government have released their [response](#) to the consultation and evaluation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. One of the conclusion is that this has been ground-breaking in shifting the way in which local authorities tackle homelessness, putting prevention at the heart and ensuring more people get help earlier.

### **Veterans News**

#### **Guaranteed Interview Scheme**

Several government departments are starting a [new initiative](#) to make it easier for veterans to secure employment in the Civil Service. The new scheme expands on the Going Forward into Employment Programme, and will open up roles at all levels across the Civil Service and in locations right across the United Kingdom.

#### **Amazon**

Amazon have launched a new [Military Talent Pool](#) , enabling members of the armed forces community to register their interest in working for them.

#### **Employment Success**

Thousands of veterans are celebrating securing meaningful employment in civilian roles, thanks to the Ex-Forces Programme, delivered by RFEA, The Forces Employment Charity. The [Ex-Forces Programme](#) is available to all service leavers, reservists and veterans, irrespective of circumstances, rank, length of service or reason for leaving. It offers regionally based, comprehensive career advice and job opportunities.