

# Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

## General Information Bulletin

Department for Work and Pensions, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/>

**HB/CTB G5/2010**

**7 April 2010**

<b>Contact</b>	Queries about the <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>technical content of this bulletin</b>, contact details are given at the end of each article</li><li>• <b>distribution of this bulletin</b>, contact Corporate Document Services Ltd Orderline<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Email: <a href="mailto:orderline@cds.co.uk">orderline@cds.co.uk</a></li></ul></li><li>• <b>bulletin in general</b>, contact Kath Murphy<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Email: <a href="mailto:Kath.Murphy@dwp.gsi.gov.uk">Kath.Murphy@dwp.gsi.gov.uk</a></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Who should read</b>	All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff
<b>Action</b>	For information

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## The Right Benefit Indicator (NI 180 in England)

- 1 The Right Benefit Indicator (RBI (NI180)) has been removed from the National Indicator Set (NIS) for local government in England. This is a consequence of the Government's policy of reducing the number of indicators in the set for 2010/11 and because of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP's) difficulties in formally publishing RBI statistics. As you know, RBI performance information is now provided to local authorities (LAs) monthly in a spreadsheet and classified as Management Information; HB/CTB Circular A22/2009 refers. DWP will continue to provide RBI performance information in this way.
- 2 Despite the removal of the RBI from the NIS, DWP considers RBI information to be important as a means of helping LAs to keep claims right. This will continue to be the case, regardless of its status in the separate local government performance frameworks in place in England, Scotland and Wales.
- 3 DWP is reviewing the background to the RBI and we are considering options for its replacement in 2011/12; we will discuss these with the Local Authority Associations (LAAs) in due course.
- 4 If you have any queries relating to this item please contact: [Performance-Framework@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:Performance-Framework@dwpgsi.gov.uk)

## The CIS Prompts to local authorities (LAs) Project

- 5 All LAs should have received Version 1c of the Training and Guidance for Customer Information System (CIS) prompts to LAs.
- 6 Please ensure that staff needing to use the new functionality have undertaken the 30 minute presentation and familiarised themselves with the guide prior to implementation.
- 7 If you have not received a copy, or would like to be sent another, please e-mail using the link below.
- 8 The [HBIFP - CIS Prompts to LAs Internet Page](#) is being updated regularly with news about the implementation including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.
- 9 If you have any queries about the project please view the [HBIFP - CIS Prompts to LAs Internet Page](#) or contact the CIS Prompts to LA project on [QH.HBINFOFLOWSPROGRAMME@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK](mailto:QH.HBINFOFLOWSPROGRAMME@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK).

## HB/CTB cases awaiting decision by the Upper Tribunal

- 10 Decision Making and Appeals (DMA) Leeds is aware of the following HB/CTB cases that are awaiting decision by the Upper Tribunal
- CH/1758/2009 and JR/2204/2009 – claimant appeal: tribunal procedure – admission of late appeals.
  - CH/3186/2009 and JR/131/2010 – claimant appeal (Aspinall and others): tribunal procedure – whether strike out is an appealable decision.
- 11 Thank you to those authorities that have let us know about cases they are appealing. Please notify us of cases at the point that the application for leave to appeal is made to the Upper Tribunal office, or the appeal is lodged following grant of leave by a First Tier Tribunal Judge. Please let us know if a case reference (CH/.. or CSH/..) has been allocated.

## Queries

- 12 If you have any queries about cases before the Upper Tribunal Judges or courts, please contact us by
- email at [DMALEEDS.CUSTOMERSUPPORTSERVICES@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK](mailto:DMALEEDS.CUSTOMERSUPPORTSERVICES@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK) or
  - fax on 0113 2324841

## Appeals with no prospect of success

- 13 The Tribunals Service (TS) are having some appeals incorrectly referred to them as 'misconceived'. There is no longer any provision in law for that category of appeal.
- 14 If an appeals writer thinks that an appeal has no prospects of success, they should produce a concise, focussed argument to that effect (a single sheet of A4 would do), and send the case to the TS, with a request for a direction from a First-tier Tribunal Judge to strike out the appeal under rule 8(3)(c) of the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal)(Social Entitlement Chamber) Rules 2008.
- 15 The Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit Guidance Manual will be updated in due course.