

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

Urgent Bulletin

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<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/>

HB/CTB U2/2008

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Who should read	All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff
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Announcements in the Pre Budget Report

- 1 In the Pre Budget Report 2008 presented to Parliament on 24 November, the Chancellor announced that the Government is bringing forward the April 2009 increase in Child Benefit to January.
- 2 At present all Child Benefit payments are fully taken into account as income in working age HB/CTB. However, **between 5 January and 31 March 2009** (in cases where the rent is paid monthly or at any interval which is not a week or multiples of a week) and between 5 January and 4 April (where rent is paid on a weekly basis) Child Benefit should continue to be taken into account at the pre-January rate only – the increase should be disregarded.
- 3 When personal allowances in HB/CTB are increased, **from 1 April or 5 April 2009 respectively**, the full amount of Child Benefit should once again be taken into account until October 2009, from when it will receive the already announced full and permanent disregard.
- 4 The Chancellor also announced that the Government will make a one-off payment of £60 in the New Year to pensioners and to others entitled to the Christmas Bonus. This payment should be treated as capital in the normal way.

Queries

- 5 Please direct any enquiries to: Richard.Metcalf@dwp.gsi.gov.uk