

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

General Information Bulletin

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

HB/CTB G18/2008

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

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Simpler HB/CTB for older people from October 2008

- 1 In May and June 2008 we held business delivery events to explain the changes to the Pensioner HB/CTB claims process from October 2008. An electronic copy of the local authority briefing pack (New Pensioner) was made available on the HB part of the **existing** DWP website following those events.
- 2 In August 2008 the briefing pack was migrated to the **new** HB area of the DWP website and can now be found at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/claims-processing/working-with-dwp/pensions.asp>
- 3 Questions raised at the business delivery events are included in *Annex E* of the electronic briefing pack and will be updated on a monthly basis.
- 4 For more information please contact HB/CTB.NEWPROCESSQUERIES@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

DWP HB/CTB website – update your bookmarks

- 5 In issues 79 and 80 of *HB Direct* we explained that the HB/CTB pages of the DWP website were going to be updated on 8 August 2008. We also explained that if you had any of these pages saved as bookmarks or favourites, these links would no longer work. If you get a 'page not found' message, it is likely that the page you are looking for has moved. You should be able to find the page by returning to the HB/CTB home page (www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit) and following the new, easier to use navigation. You should then update your bookmarks or favourites.
- 6 If you have any questions about the new look website please email us at Adelphi.LA-Feedback@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Statutory Instruments

- 7 The following Statutory Instruments (SIs) have now been laid
 - 2008 No 649, The Occupational Pension Schemes (Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008, CORRECTION
 - 2008 No. 2101 (C.99), The Welfare Reform Act 2007 (Commencement No.7, Transitional and Savings Provisions) Order 2008, coming into force from 5 August 2008
 - 2008 No 2103, The Vaccine Damage Payments (Specified Disease) Order 2008, coming into force 1 September 2008

continued

- 2008 No 2111, The Social Security (Child Maintenance Amendments) Regulations 2008, coming into force on 27 October 2008
- 2008 No 2112, The Social Security (Use of Information for Housing Benefit and Welfare Services Purposes) Regulations 2008, coming into force 1 September 2008
- 2008 No 2114, The Welfare Reform Act (Relevant Enactment) Order 2008, coming into force 1 September 2008
- 2008 No 2265, The Social Fund (Applications and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2008, coming into force 1 October 2008
- 2008 No 2301, The Pensions Act 2007 (Actuarial Guidance) (Consequential Provisions) Order 2008, coming into force 1 October 2008
- 2008 No 2299, The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2008, coming into force 1 October 2008
- 2008 No 2365, The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Regulations 2008, coming into force 1 October 2008

8 Copies of SIs can now be downloaded from DWP's own website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/docs/lawvols/bluevol/> and the website of the Office of Publication Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm>

What's new on the web

9 The following items can be found on the website link shown

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB/CTB Circular A13/2008	Housing Benefit database and matching Service (HBMS) timetable and process for the return of Stats 124s 2007/08	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2008/A13-2008.pdf
HB/CTB Circular A14/2008	Student support uprating 2008/09	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2008/A14-2008.pdf
HB/CTB Circular A15/2008	Valuation of capital assets: New service agreement process changes	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2008/A15-2008.pdf

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB/CTB Bulletin G16/2008	<p>New Unitary Authorities Performance and Good Practice Guide update</p> <p>Using Customer Information System (CIS) to set the Y/N indicator</p> <p>Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – your questions answered</p> <p>LA CIS Guide abolition of the 1% Management Test Check Centralisation of FIS Decision Making Process</p> <p>Principal reasons for collection of Single HB Extract data</p> <p>Important information for all LA Overpayment Recovery Teams</p> <p>Value for Money exercise Pension Credit</p> <p>What's new on the web</p> <p>HB/CTB Circulars issued this month</p>	<p>http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/bulletins/2008/G16-2008.pdf</p>

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB/CTB Bulletin G17/2008	<p>Annual Pension Credit take up campaign 7 changes to backdating rules</p> <p>Summary & final reports for reporting Changes in Circumstances: Tackling error in the HB system (Standard HB cases)</p> <p>LA claim processing address – reminder</p> <p>HB/CTB Circular A12/2008: Extended Payments Schemes – clarification on paras 45 & 110</p> <p>New Tax Credits on CIS HB/CTB Circular A14/2008 (Revised) – clarification on student rates</p> <p>Pension Credit Assessed Income Period reviews</p>	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/bulletins/2008/G17-2008.pdf
HB Direct Issue 81 August 2008	Newsletter	http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/hb-direct-newsletter/2008/issue81september2008.pdf

HB/CTB Circulars issued this month

- 10 The following HB/CTB Circulars have been issued this month
- HB/CTB Circular A14/2008
 - HB/CTB Circular A15/2008
 - HB/CTB Circular S4/2008

Other publications issued this month

- 11 The following publication has been issued this month
- HB Direct Issue 81 September 2008