

## **Removal of the two-child limit**

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### **Introduction**

1. This memo gives guidance on the Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Act 2026, which comes into force on 6.4.26<sup>1</sup>.

*1 UC (Removal of Two Child Limit) Act 26, sec 2*

### **Background**

2. Since 6.4.17 the child element of Universal Credit has been awarded only in respect of the first and second child or qualifying young person for whom the claimant is responsible, unless an exception applies (the two-child limit)<sup>1</sup>.

*1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25A and Sch 12*

## Changes

3. From 6.4.26 the two-child limit is removed, and a child element will be payable in respect of any child or qualifying young person the claimant is responsible for (ADM F1056). The ordering of children, qualifying young persons and whether any exceptions apply, no longer needs to be considered.
4. An amount in respect of any child or qualifying young person for whom the claimant is responsible will be included in their award of Universal Credit in the assessment period commencing on or after the 6.4.26<sup>1</sup>.

*1 UC (Removal of Two Child limit) Act 26, sec 2(4)*

5. However, the two-child limit must still be applied when considering entitlement to a child element for any period prior to 6.4.26<sup>1</sup>.

*1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 25A, 25B and Sch 12*

## Annotations

Please annotate this memo at the following ADM paragraph: F1004

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Chapter F1**

**March 2026**