

**UNIVERSAL CREDIT - MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2020**

| Contents | Paragraphs |
|--|-------------------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Relevant childcare | 2 – 3 |
| Earnings threshold calculation applied to grace period | 4 – 7 |
| Evidence and information in connection with an award | 8 |
| Annotations | |
| Contacts | |

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This memo gives guidance on changes to Universal Credit introduced by the Universal Credit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 (UC Misc Amdts) Regs (NI) 20) (SR. 2020 No. 107). The changes take effect from 13.7.20¹.

1 UC (Misc Amdts) Regs (NI) 20, reg 1

RELEVANT CHILDCARE

- 2 The meaning of relevant childcare is expanded to include care for a child in Northern Ireland by a home based child care provider approved by a Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 37(2)(d)

- 3 For a child outside of Northern Ireland, relevant childcare includes care provided by a Secretary of State accredited child care provider, as well as care provided by a child care provider which is approved or accredited by the relevant state, and evidence of such approval or accreditation is provided to the Department by the claimant¹.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 37(3)(a) & (b)

EARNINGS THRESHOLD CALCULATION APPLIED TO GRACE PERIOD

- 4 For households where the benefit cap is applied through Universal Credit there can be a period of 9 months, known as a grace period, during which time their benefit may not be capped.
- 5 To qualify for a grace period, the household earnings must have been at least the relevant earnings threshold for the previous 12 months/assessment periods.
- 6 In Universal Credit, the earnings threshold to be applied to the benefit cap grace period is to be calculated using the national living wage **as at the beginning of each month or assessment period** in which the claimant was working.
- 7 As the amount of the national living wage changes each year this clarification will ensure that the correct amount of national living wage, relating to the time when the work was undertaken, is used to calculate whether a grace period applies¹. Due to this change, the reference to £430 will be removed as it is no longer relevant.

1 UC Regs (NI) 16, reg 82(5)

EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH AN AWARD

- 8 Where
 1. a claimant's award of Universal Credit includes an amount in respect of housing costs **or**
 2. the award may be revised or superseded to include such an amount,

a landlord must supply information or evidence in connection with the award, or any question arising out of it, as the Department may require. This must be done within one month of being required to do so or longer period as is considered reasonable¹.

1 UC, PIP, JSA & ESA (C&P) Regs (NI) 16, reg 37(9)

ANNOTATIONS

Please annotate the number of this memo (ADM Memo 13/20) against ADM paragraphs:

A2118 (heading), E5052, E5053, F7032, F7035

CONTACTS

If you have any queries about this memo, please contact:

Decision Making Services
Section 7
5th Floor
9 Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3LP

Telephone: (02890) 829420, 829069, 817908, 829110

DECISION MAKING SERVICES

**Distribution: All holders of
ADM Chapters
A2, E5 and F7**

July 2020