

COVID19 - Benefit Reviews and Reassessments Suspended for 3 Months – 24 March 2020

The UK Government has advised that there are temporary measures being taken, effective from 24 March 2020, to reassure vulnerable people about the continuity of their benefits during the coronavirus outbreak. This is intended to give reassurance to existing claimants and to ensure the Department for Work and Pension's (DWP) resources are focused on assisting new claimants.

These measures follow on from a previous announcement to suspend all face-to-face assessments in order to safeguard potentially vulnerable claimants.

What this means for you:

For claimants, this means:

- there will be no new reviews or reassessments across all benefits for **three months** – this includes Universal Credit (UC), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.
- face-to-face assessments for all sickness and disability benefits have been suspended for the next three months including for any new claims.
- PIP claimants, if an assessment has already taken place this will continue to be processed. If an assessment has been scheduled, claimants will be contacted by the assessment provider to discuss how this will be taken forward.
- ESA and UC claimants whose cases have been referred to the provider will be contacted to take this forward.

The suspension will be kept under regular review by the Government and extended if necessary. If people experience a change in their needs they are still encouraged to contact the DWP to ensure they are receiving the correct level of support.

Where awards are due to expire, **end-dates will be extended** so that claimants continue to receive financial support at their current rate during this period.

For further Government advice on claiming benefits during the Coronavirus period please refer to the following - [Coronavirus and claiming benefits](#)

CAB can also provide useful advice and assistance, especially during these difficult times - [Citizens Advice Scotland](#)