

Closing the gateway for claimants with Severe Disability Premium

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Background

The Severe Disability Premium (SDP) is an amount paid to severely disabled people as part of the following legacy benefits:

- Jobseekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit

Claimants who receive a legacy benefit which includes the SDP, lose it when a change in their circumstances results in them claiming Universal Credit.

As from 16/01/2019 claimants receiving SDP as part of a legacy benefit or were receiving it within the last calendar month and still meet the SDP qualifying conditions, will not be eligible to claim UC.

Closing the gateway

When claimants attempt to make a claim they are asked if they receive SDP.

If they answer:

- “No” they continue to make the claim to Universal Credit
- “Yes” they are directed to phone the legacy benefit lines.
- “don’t know” they are directed to phone the SDP team. The SDP agent will check the claimant’s details.

If it is found that the claimant:

- had SDP, they are signposted to the local authority, HMRC or put through to DWP legacy benefit lines to make a new claim to a different legacy benefit.
- did not have SDP they are signposted to make a Universal Credit claim.

Legacy qualifying conditions for Severe Disability Premium

Claimants in receipt of one of the legacy benefits may qualify for the SDP if they are in receipt of one of the following disability benefits:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component at middle or higher rate
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) daily living component at standard or enhanced rate
- Attendance Allowance or Constant Attendance Allowance (AA/CAA)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)

They usually cannot have anyone aged 18 or over living with them, unless the other person in the household is:

- getting a qualifying benefit
- registered blind
- a boarder or subtenant (but not a close relative)
- making separate payments to the landlord

They cannot get SDP if someone is getting CA or the additional amount for caring in Universal Credit.

Couples get the higher amount of severe disability premium if both claimant and partner meet the conditions above.

They get the lower amount if:

- someone gets CA or the additional amount for caring in Universal Credit for looking after only one of the couple
- only one meets the eligibility criteria and the other is registered blind

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