

## **Temporary accommodation**

For the purposes of Universal Credit, accommodation is only referred to as temporary accommodation when it is provided by a Local Authority (LA) or provider of social sector housing and then only in cases where an LA is meeting its duty to homeless persons in accordance with the Housing Act.

Claimants who live in temporary accommodation and make a new claim to Universal Credit will not be able to claim Housing costs. Instead claimants will claim Housing Benefit for their temporary accommodation rent liability and receive only the personal element of Universal Credit.

Claimants who were in temporary accommodation prior to the 11th April 2018 and already receiving Universal Credit housing costs will continue to do so until there is a change in the amount they pay. This is where there is a change to the total cost the Local Authority charge the claimant. At this point the Universal Credit housing costs will cease and the claimant will need to claim Housing Benefit.

For claimants living in the private rented sector (PRS) accommodation provided on a temporary basis by the LA must be assessed in Universal Credit in the same way as a claimant with a longer term tenancy, even when the PRS landlord calls it temporary accommodation.

When considering discretionary housing payments, claimants will be treated as having underlying entitlement to Universal Credit housing costs. This is for any assessment period where the claimant would have been entitled to Universal Credit housing costs if the accommodation had not been temporary.