

Ongoing COVID 19 response




£3 million further funding for DHPs announced in Programme for Government 1st September 2020

Analysis of data from SG economists and statisticians

Submission to COSLA SDG for consideration

Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan



HARSAG reconvened June 2020. Recommendations used to deliver an Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan

Emphasis on measures to prevent homelessness and support tenants to remain in their own homes

New pre-action protocols for private sector landlords

Introduce Tenant Hardship Loan Fund

Maximise DHP uptake



Additional funds have been made available for “Other DHPs”

Continue to raise awareness of DHP availability, ensuring maximum takeup

Streamline DHP processes – easily accessible, consistent approach

Stakeholder involvement

Tenant Hardship Fund



£10 Million Tenant Hardship Loan Fund established.
Accessible November 2020

To provide help with housing costs for tenants who may not have access to any other financial support eg DHPs.

Expect tenants to explore any other non-repayable options before considering a Tenant Hardship Loan

Social Security Agency Benefits



Best Start Grant/Best Start Foods

- From 10 December 2018 to 31 May 2020, 159,975 applications for Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods were received.

Funeral Support Payment

- From 16 September 2019 to 30 June 2020, 6,110 applications for Funeral Support Payment were received

Young Carer Grant

- From 21 October 2019 to 31 July 2020, 2,445 Young Carer Grant applications were received

Upcoming Launch of Scottish Child Payment and Child Winter Heating Assistance

Universal Credit Scottish choices

Since October 2017, offers of:


- Payment of housing costs directly to landlords; and
- Twice monthly payments.

Aim to provide more choice for people to manage their finances, protect tenancies and reduce build up of rent arrears.

What's happened in the last six months?

- DWP's housing payment changes;
- Take up rates steady
- Evaluation

Split (or separate) Payments



Policy aim remains: to provide everyone in receipt of Universal Credit with access to an independent income, based on their individual needs.

Policy and delivery assessments gaining pace.

Current proposal is based on household characteristics, rather than exact pounds and pence.

Expected announcement in summer has been delayed.

Questions



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