

### **COVID 19 Update – Rules for Christmas**

The Scottish Government has announced changes to the rules for the Christmas holiday.

Up to three households will be able to meet up during a five-day period of **23 - 27 December**.

People can mix in homes, places of worship and outdoor spaces, and travel restrictions will also be eased. But a formed "Christmas bubble" will not be able to visit pubs or restaurants together.

It is important to remember that the virus is still with us and everyone will still need to be careful about what they do. Just because you can see and visit people does not mean you need to.

Call FAIR on **0131 662 1962** and leave your name and number if you would like us to call you back to help explain how the rules affect you.



### **FAIR AGM (Annual General Meeting) 2020**

FAIR are inviting you to our online AGM- everyone is welcome!

Topic: FAIR AGM

Date: Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2020

Time: 10:30 am to 11.30am

Where: Online using Zoom

To attend: Please email [kimberley@fairadvice.org.uk](mailto:kimberley@fairadvice.org.uk) and she will send you the details to join.

Join us to find out about the work that FAIR have been doing to support people with learning disabilities, their carers and families.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## ***Scottish Child Payment***

The new Scottish Child Payment opened early for applications on **9 November 2020**. Low income families with a child under six will be able to apply for £10 per eligible child, per week. The first payments begin from the end of February 2021 and are made every four weeks. This is equivalent to £520 per year.

Applicants must be in receipt of: Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

More information and how to apply can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/>  
Or email FAIR on [fair@fairadvice.org.uk](mailto:fair@fairadvice.org.uk) or call on 0131 662 1962 and ask to speak with an Advice Worker.



## ***Update on timeline for new Scottish benefits***

The Scottish Government has announced that Child Disability Payment will be the next new benefit to be introduced. Social Security Scotland will start taking applications from summer 2021. This will be followed by Adult Disability Payment, which will be piloted from spring 2022.

Child Disability Payment will replace the DWP's Disability Living Allowance for Children and Adult Disability Payment will replace Personal Independence Payment. People who currently get UK Government disability benefits will switch to the new Scottish system in stages after the new benefits are introduced. This work is expected to be completed by 2025.

Once Adult Disability Payment has been rolled out, anyone on Personal Independence Payment or Working Age Disability Living Allowance who reports a change in condition, has an upcoming review date, or is about to reach the end of their DWP award period, will switch to Social Security Scotland so that they do not have to undergo a DWP face-to-face assessment.

### **Best Start Grant School Age Payment**

Best Start Grant School Age Payment is a £250 payment made around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 to help with the costs of a child starting school. You may be eligible if you are the parent or carer of the child, and you get certain benefits or tax credits: Universal Credit (UC), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) or Working Tax Credit.



If you are under 18 you are automatically eligible and do not have to be on a qualifying benefit. You would also be eligible if you are 18 or 19, in full time education or training and dependent on someone else like a parent or carer who is claiming child benefit, child tax credit, pension credit or universal credit for you.

For children who would normally start school this August you can apply from **1 June 2020 to 28 February 2021**. It is claimed in the year the child is eligible to start school, they don't need to attend school and can be home schooled, and if school has been deferred until next year they should still claim within the application period this year.

To find out if you are able to claim, call FAIR on **0131 662 1962** and talk to one of our Advice Workers.

### **Support for Disabled Young People – Your Views**

The Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee wants to know what people think about the new Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill.

The Bill aims to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people as they grow up.

Use this link to download a PDF which has more information about the Bill and tells you how to give you views on it:

**[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Education/General%20Documents/20201111Call\\_for\\_Views.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Education/General%20Documents/20201111Call_for_Views.pdf)**

## **Child Winter Heating Assistance**

From **23 November 2020**, the Scottish Government will introduce a new payment named Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an annual payment of £200 designed to assist with heating costs for children and young people up to the age of 18 years old who receive the highest care component of Disability Living Allowance for Children.

This payment is automatically paid into the same account that Disability Living Allowance is paid and payments will arrive in bank accounts from 27 November and within approximately 2 weeks. To qualify for the first payment, you must be in receipt of this benefit between **21 September 2020 to 27 September 2020**.



## **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from FAIR!**

**The FAIR office will be closed from the  
24<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.**

**Stay Safe!**



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