



Potteries Gold



Universal Credit from 13th June 2018

Who has to claim UC?

All claimants living in the postcode areas below who make a new claim for benefits or are receiving legacy benefits and have a change of circumstances will have to claim Universal Credit from 13th June 2018. Legacy benefits are Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Tax Credits and Housing Benefit.

UC is being rolled out in the following postcode areas from 13th June 2018

ST1	Hanley, Birches Head, Cobridge, Etruria, Shelton
ST2,	Bentilee, Abbey Hulton, Bucknall
ST3,	Longton, Dresden, Blurton, Trentham, Meir, Weston Coyney
ST4 1 to ST4 3	Stoke Town Centre, Fenton, Shelton,
ST6 1 to ST6 4	Burslem, Smallthorne, Ford Green, Sneyd Green, Middleport, Longport, Westport, Brownhills,
ST6 6 to ST6 9	Tunstall (but not the whole of Tunstall) Packmoor, Chell, Fegg Hayes, Haywood, Mill Hill, Norton, Brown Edge, Scotia
ST9	Werrington, Endon
ST10	Cheadle, Alton, Tean
ST11	Blythe Bridge
ST12	Barlaston
ST13	Leek

UC is not being rolled out in the following areas until 12th December 2018

ST4 4	Campbell Rd, and Boothern Rd Stoke
ST4 5	London Rd Stoke, Oak Hill, Penkhull,
ST4 6	Trent Vale, Basford, Hanford
ST4 7	Hartshill, Shelton New Rd, Garner St
ST5	Newcastle
ST6 5	Tunstall, Sandyford and Goldenhill
ST7	Kidsgrove, Talke, Talke Pits, Butt Lane, Newchapel, Packmoor
ST8	Biddulph (Sept 2018)

Claimants who will have to claim UC following a change of circumstances

Most people receiving legacy benefits will not have to claim UC until after July 2019. However, legacy benefit claimants who have a change of circumstances which requires them to make a new claim for benefits, will have to claim UC instead.

Examples of changes in circumstances which will mean claimant has to claim UC:

Changes in Work Status

- claimants who start working for more than 16 hours a week;
- claimants who lose their job;
- claimants who are no longer working enough hours to qualify for Working Tax Credit;
- claimants who were working but are now unable to work due to ill-health;
- claimants receiving ESA who are found fit for work following a work capability assessment. However, if they are on HB and can survive for a few weeks without other benefits whilst a Mandatory Reconsideration is considered, they can ask Housing Benefit to assess their claim as a 'nil income claim' and they can return to ESA if they go on to appeal to a tribunal (ask benefits team to explain);

Changes in Family Circumstances

- single claimants who become a couple;
- couple claimants who separate;
- claimant on i-b JSA is pregnant and it is less than 11 weeks before the baby is due;
- claimant becomes responsible for a child for the first time;
- lone parent receiving Income Support will have to claim UC when their youngest child reaches 5 years old (unless they are a carer);
- carer who receives Carer's Allowance and Income Support will have to claim UC if they are no longer a carer;
- HB claimant moves into a UC full service area will have to claim UC; however, a HB claimant who changes address within the same local authority will stay on HB;

Other changes

- i-b JSA claimant called to Jury Service;
- i-b JSA claimant remanded in custody;
- Claimant decides to claim UC even though they are receiving a legacy benefit this could be an option for claimants who are working part-time.

Exceptions to the rule

Families with 3 or more children who are claiming benefits for the first time will be directed to claim legacy benefits rather than UC.

Claimants receiving the Severe Disability Premium will not have to claim UC after a change of circumstances until after July 2019.

When will existing benefit claimants have to transfer to UC?

The DWP plans to transfer existing benefit claimants to Universal Credit sometime after July 2019. It will take until 2023 before everyone is transferred.