



## Money Matters Update No 10

### **Scottish Government delays introduction of devolved disability benefits for indefinite period**

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payments (PIP) which were to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament and replaced by Disability Assistance has now been delayed for an indefinite period.

Job Start Payment due to be introduced in March has also been delayed.

### **The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020**

The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act was passed yesterday in the Scottish Parliament. The act includes:

- Giving people who rent their homes increased protection from eviction during the pandemic.
- New rules will increase the minimum notice period for private and social tenants to up to six months, as long as there are not grounds involving antisocial or criminal behaviour, or if the landlord needs to move into the property themselves.
- Short-term protection for debtors, extending the period for which creditors are barred from taking action against people and firms - a moratorium - to six months.



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### **DWP Debt Management**

DWP Debt Management who administer deductions from claimants benefits such as overpayments, rent arrears, etc, have the following message on their phone when you call them:

“Due to the recent global coronavirus outbreak, we are stopping recovery action associated to benefits overpayments, tax credits debt being managed by DWP, and social fund loans for a temporary period.

We will no longer start to recover any new debts and will be suspending repayment of any debts already being recovered. This includes deductions for the repayment of benefit overpayments, tax credit debt and social fund loans from all benefits, direct debit plans, and repayments made to employers.

You do not need to speak to an adviser to ask us to do this, we have arranged this on your behalf.

If you currently make repayments through a bank standing order, please contact your bank to cancel your arrangement. If you currently make repayments by bank giro credit, please suspend these payments immediately. If you currently make repayments through online banking, please suspend these payments immediately.

Information is also available on the gov.uk site.”

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