



## Money Matters Update No 11 06/04/20

### **Furloughed Worker - can they accept employment with a new employer in addition to the 80%?**

Updated (on 4/4/20) guidance on gov.uk states:

If your contract allows, you may undertake other employment while your current employer has placed you on furlough, and this will not affect the grant that they can claim under the scheme. You will need to be able to return to work for the employer that has placed you on furlough if they decide to stop furloughing you, and you must be able to undertake any training they require while on furlough. If you take on new employment, you should make sure you complete the starter checklist form with your new employer correctly. If you are furloughed from another employment, you should complete Statement C. Any activities undertaken while on furlough must be in line with the latest Public Health guidance during the COVID-19 outbreak.

HMRC has issued updated versions of its guidance.

For employers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

For employees: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>



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### **DWP confirms it is pausing the recovery of benefit overpayments for three months**

Having already added a recorded message to its Debt Management telephone line alerting callers that it would be stopping recovery action for a temporary period.

The DWP have confirmed “the change means many claimants will see an increase in the amount of money they receive in benefits during the outbreak. It will also allow the department to move a significant number of staff to front line roles, so it can focus on getting money to those who need support, following a significant increase in claims over the last two weeks.”

While the recovery of advance payments of universal credit will continue, the DWP says it will be stopping debt recovery activity 'as soon as possible' in relation to benefit-related overpayments, social fund loans and tax credit debts.

In addition, the DWP confirms that:

- local authorities will suspend referral of housing benefit overpayments;
- the transfer of tax credit debt from HMRC has already been suspended;
- for those not on benefits, it has directed private sector debt collection agencies to stop their activity in relation to 'Debt Management customers'; and



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- it is suspending voluntary debt repayments and recovery by Direct Earnings Attachments.

The DWP adds that:

'The majority of deductions will be suspended automatically, however if you currently make repayments through a Bank Standing Order, Bank Giro Credit or through online banking, please contact your bank to cancel your arrangement.'

For more information <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/recovery-of-benefit-overpayment-suspended>

### **Coronavirus and Child Benefit claims**

HMRC advised that claims should be made as normal and if you are unable to register the birth, you should attach a covering letter giving that information so the claim could be processed. It's also worth noting, in case there is a child benefit delay, that an award of child benefit is not a requirement for the Universal Credit child element to be paid.

<https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit/how-to-claim>

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