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| Are you Entitled?

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| A recent [**report by Policy in Practice**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vcG9saWN5aW5wcmFjdGljZS5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.idOpdUmFQt-IiQ7z-flC2JyXUvczTUs27rvOjJaRweM%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054229067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4t19RyoEcO3SjmP%2FFsFWFd1SPQGjzp1FLu%2F6dQ9oTEM%3D&reserved=0)claims that **£18.7 BILLION** is currently going unclaimed each year by those who are entitled to receive the payments.Not unsurprisingly [**Universal Credit**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi51ay91bml2ZXJzYWwtY3JlZGl0IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.8kMwnwOJc08cSug-et8FDZMCcEVoDNLAFt7hYzY3e_o%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054229067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fZR0GsPudw%2FYiuW3JRVHGU5ip8B1TpRLLzmxBPgguQE%3D&reserved=0) tops the table with an estimated £7.57 billion going unclaimed while [**Pension Credit**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi51ay9wZW5zaW9uLWNyZWRpdCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.XIla0fMHu-mjyzRlIYtvrH_H2NcVe27fTG_hgG-HZNo%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054229067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=a8npv2PRHIiAqxOBklq%2FVW6rF9hCFYjTfcnWGG1eBZ4%3D&reserved=0)is under claimed to the tune of £1.75 billion.Benefits such as [**Council Tax Reduction**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0NvdW5jaWxBbmRHb3Zlcm5tZW50L0JlbmVmaXRzL0NvdW5jaWxUYXhCZW5lZml0L0NvdW5jaWxUYXhSZWR1Y3Rpb24uYXNweCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.Q4YdSYPvshflP5igw0jo6YGAymE9UAl3FyiYNJWrztE%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054229067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tAVX9BHKjng884XrnOeCXkFOBvHgcpoz%2BUolAIgAGq0%3D&reserved=0) administered by local authorities also go unclaimed by £2.87 billion whilst around £2 billion is unclaimed by carers. |

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| Don’t lose out!Visit our [**EA Money website**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHA6Ly93d3cuZWFtb25leS5jby51ayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.TEWUQw8K9nwz0kfzSumCRfTBbGUmvlhls7S43O6Habg%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054385329%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=svQw9oG0cwHKQMXnohTIUrdnHo8ZfTIsufbWZk6EZUc%3D&reserved=0)where you can [**check your entitlement**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZWFtb25leS5jby51ay93ZWxmYXJlLXJpZ2h0cy1hbmQtbW9uZXktYWR2aWNlL2NoZWNrLXlvdXItZW50aXRsZW1lbnQvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.DVAogxcJ9-56cQA7dgX26LTAkIrqbhpnoOqm7AbNMKo%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054385329%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PtEyvLnB2DNQ5mt71f1stPUmmJBavyGhT5heSFk47fQ%3D&reserved=0) online or make a referral to the Financial Inclusion Team |

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| Great news! Thanks to the hard work of our Financial Inclusion Teams, (read all about how we do it below) we've now had it confirmed that East Ayrshire tops the league for uptake of the Scottish Child Payment across the country.  We've now reached  90% of eligible families to make sure they get the payments to which they're entitled.But we won't rest there. Our teams are determined to reach the missing 10% who have yet to claim. **If you or someone you know has a child who might qualify visit**[**Scottish Child Payment website**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm15Z292LnNjb3Qvc2NvdHRpc2gtY2hpbGQtcGF5bWVudCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.NYDPWl8h1zJN7wuWSq0YIyUQc3fqcJ6NiN3Sej6YfVE%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054385329%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cYSnOZHSgjZPHcRxliG3AkxCNxheaOOGGREle550jqg%3D&reserved=0) |

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| Financial Inclusion TeamOur Financial Inclusion Team currently has a number of projects to make it easier for families with children and people with long term illness or disabilities to get the help that they need.

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Schools Our Schools project has **Financial Inclusion Teams** based within every secondary school in East Ayrshire, helping families with children who not only attend that school but also the primary schools and early years centres attached to them.£ntitled - Contact us[**Phone your school**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0VkdWNhdGlvbkFuZExlYXJuaW5nL1NjaG9vbHMvT3VyLXNjaG9vbHMuYXNweCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.at0KFIWa8U7DZu23AijII7JXh-OSF_SHW3iz4KIaD2k%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054385329%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ryo5YWCqqopIp8WfUnhLils9e0PStM8fYVbgwh0GJ5E%3D&reserved=0) and ask to speak to the Financial Inclusion Officer

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| GP SurgeriesWe also have staff based one day a week within most GP Practices in East Ayrshire. These currently include:* Dalmellington
* Tanyard (Cumnock)
* Ballochmyle (Mauchline and Catrine)
* Loudoun (Darvel)
* Galston
* Crosshouse
* Kilmarnock
	+ The Wards
	+ Old Irvine Road
	+ Marnock
	+ Portland Medical

If you have a health or other related benefits issue our **GP based Teams** are there to help you one day per week.  |

£ntitled - Contact us[**Contact your GP surgery**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm5oc2luZm9ybS5zY290L3Njb3RsYW5kcy1zZXJ2aWNlLWRpcmVjdG9yeS9ncC1wcmFjdGljZXM_bGE9czEyMDAwMDA4Jm9ubHlvcGVuPTAmc29ydGRpcj1Bc2MmcGFnZT0yJm9ubHlvcGVuPTAmbG9jcHQ9NTUuNDUxODQ5NiwtNC4yNjQ0NDc4IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.l8ZKWeefKbsGRmuazoPB93VU--a-a7BtAhB2J-NaL84%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054385329%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Fo5Wa4%2BEUKoA%2BNhZvm9pdnxyNF1JXrGVz8actHVJ%2FeI%3D&reserved=0) **and ask to make an appointment to see the Financial Inclusion Officer.**

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Early YearsDo you have a young family of pre-school age or close to your expected date of confinement? Then our **Early Years Team** can assist you to ensure that you are receiving your full benefit entitlement.£ntitled - Contact us****Speak to your Health Visitor and ask for a referral.****

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In Court Advice

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| Are you in arrears with your rent? Are you facing court action to potentially evict you from your home? Or if you are attending court due to civil court proceedings or a simple procedure but don’t have any legal representation, then our **In Court Advice Team**can help you. |

£ntitled - Contact us**Call  In Court Advice  on 01563 549367****email In Court Advice**

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Macmillan

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|  Are you or a member of your family living with cancer? Our **Macmillan Team** can ensure that your income is maximised and support you to apply for a Macmillan Grant if required. |

£ntitled - Contact us**Ask your Cancer Nurse Specialist to refer you or*** **visit**[**EA Money**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZWFtb25leS5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.-294BjMcq40ov_0qDgbUjTNpgGKtlFnu1BbG1k9DYq4%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054541659%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6LXudCIuRQtYBTX7hNfs2kI7XmgfK07YNsd0cwlNPjw%3D&reserved=0) **website**
* **call 0800 389 7750**

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Employability

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| * Are you lone parent or live in a workless household or low income family
* Looking to break down the barriers preventing you from moving on into training, education or employment?

Our **Employability Team** can help you to break down those barriers, including benefits maximisation, debts, transport or childcare issues. |

£ntitled - Contact us* **visit**[**EA Money**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZWFtb25leS5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.l80sXeMkfa0WTIJ9bAfT96spZkfqdlG0BCThryv9QUk%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054541659%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WEUKv89rpikUsUsQsGNR0EG8hp5Yc%2B6MB2q3GwR%2B3ms%3D&reserved=0) **website**
* **call 0800 389 7750**

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CommunityIf you don’t fit into any of the above categories, such as pensioners or have a long term illness or disability don't worry - our **Community Team** is here to help you through the complex social security system.£ntitled - Contact us* visit [**EA Money**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZWFtb25leS5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.No1H49fJH7Guy0uc8e4JTsY3effFZdmU_y4AI3P4fJg%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054541659%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mDHVwzK4E4i4wohYhnM5I3LB3A3tzpLQ%2FJWS8RTIZU0%3D&reserved=0)website
* call 0800 389 7750
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| Universal Credit migration - what does it mean?  |

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| From December the DWP are increasing the movement of individuals and families who are still on  ‘legacy benefits’ such as Tax Credits, to migrate their claims over to Universal Credit from 30,000 to 80,000 per month.If you haven't already moved to Universal Credit...The DWP and HMRC  (for those who get Tax Credits), are issuing a letter to tell everyone  who will be affected by the change what you should do once you receive your Migration Notice.If you get a Migration NoticeOnce you receive  this notice, you will have three months to make a claim for Universal Credit.If you don't make your claim within three months you will lose your right to Transitional Protection which guarantees that the amount of benefit you receive is not reduced.This Transitional Protection will slowly be reduced due to annual benefit increases, rent increases or other changes in circumstances.If you haven't had your Migration Notice yetSome people are misunderstanding the letter and making a for Universal Credit claim straight away. You should **NOT** make a claim for Universal Credit until you receive the Migration Notice, otherwise you do not have any transitional protection rights and many are seeing the amount of benefits they receive reduce as a result.Don't forget to claimA recent study by [**Child Poverty Action Group**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vY3BhZy5vcmcudWsvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.StotE1r6KivgSH3SUIk2m2tNld7lyC-n15Hyxg6NYTs%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054541659%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=leEXpFhr%2Boe0AEEJrmcoWJcLcpk1kUz1J3o0e3aycwk%3D&reserved=0) showed that 28% of those who have received Migration Notices up until March this year did not claim their entitlement to Universal Credit, costing them an average of £300 per month!So don't lose out!We can helpIf you receive a Migration Notice, or you are of working age and out of work, or on a low wage and are unsure if you should claim or are having difficulties with Universal Credit, the [**East Ayrshire UC Support Team**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZWFtb25leS5jby51ay9lYS1tb25leS91bml2ZXJzYWwtY3JlZGl0LXN1cHBvcnQtdGVhbS8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.2kRFyP9hanf-eFTIBw2lwhRTMfr_GKbfDMchXGCRDSU%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054541659%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Gbhu%2F3mwhC%2BpEMqTT%2B99yq7uEIM4I5Ch4qHQlmXNhjM%3D&reserved=0) can help you.The UC Support team can help you make a claim for Universal Credit, access the internet, improve your digital skills, access a bank account, offer options to manage your rent, claim an advance payment and improve your budgeting skills£ntitled - Contact usContact UC Support* Call  01563 503280
* **email Universal Credit Team**
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| Find out what benefits you're entitled to and don't miss out!  |

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| Winter Heating PaymentThe Scottish Government's [**Winter Heating Payment**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm15Z292LnNjb3Qvd2ludGVyLWhlYXRpbmctcGF5bWVudCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.6uVnYXAF-zDrwDIZ0Xa5L_PfI61dl4PJpYPsRhhNQJg%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054697829%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uLtd1A5rkfJHlqQdU5jCR8voyoTDqlYmGOzxGcgl1CA%3D&reserved=0), worth £55.05, will be paid out automatically to all those eligible from mid-December through to the end of January 2024. This is a Scotland only benefit and unlike the Cold Weather Payment, which it replaced, it is not dependent on how cold the weather is.Am I entitled? To be entitled you’ll usually receive the Winter Heating Payment if you are in receipt of:* Universal Credit
* Pension Credit
* Income Support
* Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
* Income Related Employment Support Allowance
* or if you receiveed Support for Mortgage Interest during the qualifying period of 6-12 November

If you entitled, you should receive a letter from Social Security Scotland prior to the payment being made and the in your bank statement the reference WHP will identify the payment from the other benefits you receive.**To check if you are eligible visit:**[**Winter Heating Payment - mygov.scot**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm15Z292LnNjb3Qvd2ludGVyLWhlYXRpbmctcGF5bWVudCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.QkJFqx3MYwr9di7Ib_-Ug8AKVOTqouCIZQ8Y3TRQc30%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054697829%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7jf8Jkr3Gxfn%2BNAG3nL9OCYAEsj6xcdIc2rtkbtZNvo%3D&reserved=0)

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Winter Fuel PaymentThis one-off payment is  a UK Government benefit paid to people born before 25 September 1957 and should not be confused with the **Winter Heating Payment** (see above) which is a separate payment.The [**Winter Fuel Payment**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi51ay93aW50ZXItZnVlbC1wYXltZW50IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.IRwVtXzgFGiaHpEJwS0yPL0COto676VbhTr9Y9H76OU%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054697829%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BMwtaMuf%2BQDNHVka3QO4tiC3CuDEUaIYx%2FKAdvv%2FFIw%3D&reserved=0) for this year only will include any Cost of Living Payment that you are entitled to (see below) so will be worth between £250 - £600, depending on your circumstances.Scottish Government consultation

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| Meanwhile the Scottish Government is currently running a consultation about replacing the Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland with a new benefit. The consultation is open up to 15 January 2024 and you can have your say at [**Plans for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi5zY290L25ld3MvcGxhbnMtZm9yLXBlbnNpb24tYWdlLXdpbnRlci1oZWF0aW5nLXBheW1lbnQvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.KZX4zW5OBhAZKy_2OfvqiLTvJuByxKJxfbOAvGkD6Gw%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054697829%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0nD5t6WqgJ%2B83Hca4bOMeCpjQeYBpa0CGCalBCDERLA%3D&reserved=0) |  | Have your say |

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| Cost of Living logo |

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| Cost of Living Paymentif you were receiving a qualifying benefit between 18 August and 17 September, by now you should have automatically had your second Cost of Living payment paid into your bank account between 31 October and 19 November.Am I entitled? This payment will have been made to you if you got any of these benefits on any day between 18 August and 17 September:* Universal Credit
* Income based Jobseekers Allowance
* Income related Employment Support Allowance
* Income Support
* Tax Credits
* Pension Credit

I didn't receive my payment? If you think you are entitled to a Cost of Living payment but have not received it,* Firstly you should double check your bank account to ensure that it has not been paid
* If you haven’t received a payment you can [**Report a missing Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK (dwp.gov.uk)**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2VjdXJlLmR3cC5nb3YudWsvcmVwb3J0LWEtbWlzc2luZy1jb3N0LW9mLWxpdmluZy1wYXltZW50L3dlbGNvbWUiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.CYOvp3VWXCcHrjFOuUnyxnpIW_QPFVTwjJdSrkJKM0Y%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054854195%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s%2FORvjq4%2BPouxxZdLgEpjVb5wFYPkSJeHKYwDu%2FaWaQ%3D&reserved=0)
* Remember if you were born before 25 September 1957, your Cost of Living Payment will be paid along with your Winter Fuel Payment (see above).

**The final Cost of Living payment of £299 will be paid in Spring 2024** |

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| £ntitled - Latest News |

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| Best start foods |

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| Around 20,000 additional families in Scotland will be eligible for [**Best Start Foods**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm15Z292LnNjb3QvYmVzdC1zdGFydC1ncmFudC1iZXN0LXN0YXJ0LWZvb2RzL2hvdy1pdC13b3JrcyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.1AGUkwvHwY70DaPOSp1j1z8y8eYFIB8HS62jFVblo7A%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054854195%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VArCPUxykgh27qg6cKvH1SqzREIKMNH8ppMGQihrfSo%3D&reserved=0) from February 2024 after the Scottish Government lifted the income threshold on qualifying benefits.Currently the following income thresholds apply* universal credit - if the claimant or their partner has a job, their joint income from working must be less than £726 a month
* child tax credit but not working tax credit - the joint income of the claimant and their partner must be less than £18,725 per year
* child tax credit and working tax credit - the joint income of the claimant and their partner must be less than £8,717 per year
* housing benefit - the joint income of the claimant and their partner must be less than £358 a week.

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| [**Visit Best Start Foods for more information and how to apply**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm15Z292LnNjb3QvYmVzdC1zdGFydC1ncmFudC1iZXN0LXN0YXJ0LWZvb2RzL2Jlc3Qtc3RhcnQtYXBwbHkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.A3SHiaSjhSnK6M75ncgOFShLPcc8d-cb5tqYZqqtIIA%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054854195%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=F%2FYBY%2F8Y2tROT%2FlmLUlXS5mdpvFZdTHB3ac%2FpleMMXU%3D&reserved=0) |

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| Benefits uprating |

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| In the recent Autumn statement, the Chancellor announced that from next April, social security benefits administered by the [**DWP**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi51ay9nb3Zlcm5tZW50L29yZ2FuaXNhdGlvbnMvZGVwYXJ0bWVudC1mb3Itd29yay1wZW5zaW9ucyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.0khJHQ1XECm74jxZJe7T69UTSuQhsdzqya4Rjouo3XY%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054854195%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RqKMJ7LS7Zzi9%2BuCjpdcBKiFoq1eYFg1w%2Fa0GGFeIfY%3D&reserved=0), including Universal Credit, will increase by 6.7%. At the same time the State Pension will increase by 8.5%.However not everyone will benefit from these increases as the Chancellor has not increased the level of the [**Benefits Cap**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi51ay9iZW5lZml0LWNhcCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.R_IEwb2s1HNuVxvOWlkygFA_bs-mdJ84_1qTL98GbrE%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819054854195%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HLcRDG4XgHMwBywe3Db7ui6k4KTUZlvC6iN1Pv7dMek%3D&reserved=0) which will remain at the current level* **£22,020** for couples and lone parents
* **£14,753** for single adults with no children

If you are affected by the Benefits Cap, then you may be entitled to additional support through the [**Discretionary Housing Payments**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0NvdW5jaWxBbmRHb3Zlcm5tZW50L0JlbmVmaXRzL0hvdXNpbmdCZW5lZml0L0Rpc2NyZXRpb25hcnlIb3VzaW5nUGF5bWVudHMuYXNweCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.wj9RN3WRkyjFYOfBaeJBe05CnRouItQHsQvxfvbu5Ps%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055010319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6GAtN9%2FNXxBxi%2BesVi1EPfAcksDHceNV9POTLkQ3JjM%3D&reserved=0) (see below)The Scottish Government will launch their budget on 19 December. his will include an announcement about the rate of increase in Scottish benefits. |

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| Discretionary Housing Payment |

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| The [**Discretionary Housing Payment**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0NvdW5jaWxBbmRHb3Zlcm5tZW50L0JlbmVmaXRzL0hvdXNpbmdCZW5lZml0L0Rpc2NyZXRpb25hcnlIb3VzaW5nUGF5bWVudHMuYXNweCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.Wtfkp0cnCp3hxvC9qtddPxMzmhh_Nts1m3XWEyC913c%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055010319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X7Rsq61vkDwJV%2B16FIAuR%2FtqsQZhy0DBA9NPOuDja4I%3D&reserved=0) is a payment administered by East Ayrshire Council to help people struggling to meet their housing costs.Discretionary Housing Payments also currently assists to mitigate the effects of the Under-Occupancy Charge, commonly known as the Bedroom Tax. It also helps if the amount of benefit that you receive is reduced as a result of the Benefits Cap.A blue sign with white text  Description automatically generated* visit [**Discretionary Housing Payments**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0NvdW5jaWxBbmRHb3Zlcm5tZW50L0JlbmVmaXRzL0hvdXNpbmdCZW5lZml0L0Rpc2NyZXRpb25hcnlIb3VzaW5nUGF5bWVudHMuYXNweCIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.8g7pwOOwAhvpqPX23t9pbRVmhnD0K1-gnJh1YuUCHiU%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055010319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0EXuXG1s9wWi0cx4QryTk5OJPXSNygFJjwrb6iBUP%2Fg%3D&reserved=0)
* complete an **o**[**nline application form**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vb3VyLmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0FjaGlldmVGb3Jtcy8_bW9kZT1maWxsJmNvbnNlbnRNZXNzYWdlPXllcyZmb3JtX3VyaT1zYW5kYm94LXB1Ymxpc2g6Ly9BRi1Qcm9jZXNzLTY2ZTE3NDg0LWI2YjEtNGZhMS04ZDJhLTY2NzZjMDU0NWI3MS9BRi1TdGFnZS1jY2U0NjlhZS03NTY2LTQ1ZGEtOTgwOC05YzI2N2ZiZDAyNmYvZGVmaW5pdGlvbi5qc29uJnByb2Nlc3M9MSZwcm9jZXNzX3VyaT1zYW5kYm94LXByb2Nlc3NlczovL0FGLVByb2Nlc3MtNjZlMTc0ODQtYjZiMS00ZmExLThkMmEtNjY3NmMwNTQ1YjcxJnByb2Nlc3NfaWQ9QUYtUHJvY2Vzcy02NmUxNzQ4NC1iNmIxLTRmYTEtOGQyYS02Njc2YzA1NDViNzEiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.oydugmdNH7l3V3pznr1wqs9uEo5IO0gAX3wOhVSfA1g%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055010319%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FbGzURaMrhQRdALvFTlPKO6nlzDzIxiYMFEBOsyo%2FUw%3D&reserved=0)
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| Carers Support Supplement |

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| If you are a Carer, then be aware of a new benefit being introduced from 1st October next year, called the Carers Support Payment (CSP). Administered by [**Social Security Scotland**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNvY2lhbHNlY3VyaXR5Lmdvdi5zY290LyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.7m9N97VORKsXtQ9zmkptOtzaT7-hj6Z25XSpTEskGVU%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055166614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mjsd4IAG6G5rXNmojg6w%2Fz17NDUYg%2F2rgDImq3YsUs0%3D&reserved=0), this new benefit will replace the existing Carers Allowance benefit.TrialsTrials of CSP began this week in Perth and Kinross, Dundee and the Western Isles and will be rolled out in local authority areas across Scotland from Spring 2024. Whilst no date is yet established for when it will be rolled out in East Ayrshire, the national roll-out will be completed by the autumnHow will the new benefit work?In the main it will mirror the current Carers Allowance benefit with two main exceptions for young carers in education. CSP will be available to:1. carers aged 20 or over in full-time education at any level
2. carers aged 16 to 19 in full-time advanced education

While CSP is not initially available to people aged 16 to 19 in full-time non-advanced education, eligibility for CSP will be extended to include carers in this category in exceptional circumstances from 1 October 2024.Coming soon...The Scottish Government is also planning further changes to entitlement at a later date, including additional help for those carers who care for more than one person and extended support for carers following the death of the person that they cared for.If you are currently in receipt of Carers Allowance, then you will automatically be switched over to the Carers Support Payment and will be notified in due course by Social Security Scotland as to when that change will occur.Care leavers paymentThe Scottish Government is running a consultation on the proposed introduction of a one-off payment of £2000 to help young care leavers overcome the additional barriers that they face as they transition into adulthood.It will form a broader package of support which includes, but is not limited to, access to Continuing Care and Aftercare support for care leavers, the Care Experience Bursary and Council Tax Exemption for care leavers.A blue and black text  Description automatically generatedTo make your views known you can find out more and how to participate in the consultation before it closes on 26 January 2024   [Visit Care Leaver Payment consultation](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lmdvdi5zY290L3B1YmxpY2F0aW9ucy9jYXJlLWxlYXZlci1wYXltZW50LWNvbnN1bHRhdGlvbi9wYWdlcy8xLyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.BBcrHWIHRpnVC8CSOl84gWMMT1-Nv7Xen_4a3Vx6lS8%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055166614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=y2nyD9rPJxGuzPk1w2j56UEfYQLTmJ2DpDWHQWtKdNE%3D&reserved=0)  |

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| Useful linksFor advice or help with a variety of issues, from benefits to debts and rent arrears, energy costs to affordable credit, please contact our partners:Energy

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| [**Citrus Energy**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmNpdHJ1c2VuZXJneS5jby51ay9jb250YWN0LXVzLyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.VwTB1rvCp5IkQiWxTgCBew1jL93iSiMTEF8d3cLCGKA%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055166614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BVRoCvf1vKH7YKwqxr0xQ2udIK899hoRJcY1XFRo2JE%3D&reserved=0) |  | A close-up of a logo  Description automatically generated |

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|    [**British Gas Energy Trust**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vYnJpdGlzaGdhc2VuZXJneXRydXN0Lm9yZy51ay9ncmFudHMtYXZhaWxhYmxlLyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDQuODY1NDUzMTEifQ.RYTE3nlpm63q_wHNR-QJC9h1LFTAIBkDcg5UpZWNzqk%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055166614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7Ob9rWwg%2BP20PWvVmETYsqrtpGRW4OHQSHz09flr2Sw%3D&reserved=0) |

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Credit Unions

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|  [**Ayrshire Credit Union**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vYXlyc2hpcmVjcmVkaXR1bmlvbi5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.MwtDUtcZzhFkzbTYswUjKrHvxuLpWCVZKEuFNAy4Woo%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055166614%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3ZngruS61N7lIQgx4PBsCHJt3ze4VpAS%2F4vqDN9wYW4%3D&reserved=0) |  | A logo for a credit union  Description automatically generated |

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|  [**Sovereign Credit Union**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc292ZXJlaWduY3UuY28udWsiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.XX_3GxVP6tAdfx0ULXNQ512rdEGytSlEYyn9b9TJzQc%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055322839%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HALbvApfTqXiUWCYRZ%2BszWc7oklCiPMkwypo7j0sK%2FU%3D&reserved=0) |  | A close-up of a blue banner  Description automatically generated |

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| Cost of Living Assistance provided by [**East Ayrshire Council**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3QtYXlyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL0NvbW11bml0eS9jb3N0LW9mLWxpdmluZy9jb3N0LW9mLWxpdmluZy5hc3B4IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.of6VSsZ21Zhs5u9yUxcfvr8IgZK1f3qMYNU9CJR5AaE%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055322839%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mglQIc%2BO1B1Q7oJvp2Mle2HmsxBQOj0f1gPZfPhm%2FJg%3D&reserved=0) |  | Cost of Living - Help & advice header 3 |

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| Universal Credit Support Team* **call 01563 503280**
* **email Universal Credit Team**
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| Citizens Advice* **call 01563 543379**
* [**East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmVhc3RheXJzaGlyZWNhYi5vcmcudWsvIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTIwNC44NjU0NTMxMSJ9.zPaH5mnFO0TgUdE4dMs9P0NJ-Lj1g6fiT_fjmf-2mc8%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055322839%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8fVdY%2FsNT77ztUzxc1T2GnSrzriD1KVaFrcPOUGHiXs%3D&reserved=0)
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| ****In Court Advice team***** **call 01563 549367**
* **email in court advice**
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| EA Money team * **call 0800 389 7750**
* [**EA Money**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZWFtb25leS5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTQ1MzExIn0.5AOhM1Uan1FyTZ7cyQ_x3Fh3iVP9ycvUDHF-GIfEiKE%2Fs%2F2164820044%2Fbr%2F232128195443-l&data=05%7C01%7Cshannon.watson%40atrium-homes.co.uk%7Ceb05c5bf0fde4a689ff208dbf4b25803%7C9d1f534727484af6bb90fb8503e83495%7C0%7C0%7C638372819055479038%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jetpuoBRZzOHt6j8HNQSpuKzWvrgH8ubAYNrLQtuf2Q%3D&reserved=0) **website**
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| east ayrshire council - comhairle siorrachd àir an ear |
| Council HeadquartersLondon Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire, KA3 7BUTelephone: 01563 554400Council Helpline: 0345 724 0000Textphone: 01563 576167 |
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