

Universal Credit Advice- Housing Benefit (January 2019)

From the 16 January 2019 any claimants who are entitled and remain entitled to SDP (including those who have had a break in claim but have been entitled within the last month) will remain on their existing legacy benefit or can claim another legacy benefit relevant to their change of circumstance. Where the claimant is no longer entitled to SDP then they would have to contact UC to make a claim (other exceptions permitting – see paragraph 11).

Therefore, if a claimant moves to a new local authority (LA) area but they are in receipt of SDP with their HB this change of circumstance will no longer trigger natural migration to UC and they will remain on legacy benefits. From 16 January 2019 this would be a new HB claim as long as the claimant remains entitled to SDP. If the claimant is to remain on legacy benefits, then the transitional payment should not be made. This payment is to help claimant transition from legacy to UC, so would not be appropriate.

Example 1

John is living in Blackpool and in receipt of the HB and ESA(IR) with SDP. He moves house to Liverpool and, therefore, out of the current LA area. Blackpool LA would need to check the Customer Information System (CIS) when closing down the claim to see if John was entitled to SDP. If so, Blackpool LA should not pay the transition to UC housing payment as the claimant will be claiming HB in the new area.