

DWP Update – 21/07/2021

Argyll and Bute

Stats/MI (Recorded as of 10th June 2021 stats map)

Office	Total UC Claimants	Conditionality groups					
		Preparing for work	Planning for work	Working – No requirements	No work Requirements	Working – With requirements	Searching for Work
Campbeltown	952	30	14	183	226	165	326
Dunoon	1197	50	20	193	304	207	420
Helensburgh	1287	54	14	267	314	245	397
Oban	1979	65	35	498	359	321	702
Rothsay	678	39	10	102	191	110	227
	6093						2072

Customers searching for work by age (as at May 2021 statsx-plore)

	18 - 24	25 - 49	50 – 59	60+
Campbeltown	66	192	68	49
Dunoon	66	282	127	56
Helensburgh	85	272	118	49
Oban	157	425	164	96
Rothsay	29	122	47	37
Total	403	1293	524	287

Help to Kickstart a young person's career in your community

Funding for employers to recruit a young person aged 18-24 is still available with the Kickstart Scheme offering financial support for employers for 26 weeks

Are you ready to take on new talent or do you know an employer that can get a young person's career started? Get involved in the Kickstart Scheme - [read our new employer prospectus](#) or attend one of [DWP's employer webinars](#) to find out how Kickstart can help your business grow and provide life-changing opportunities to young people.

Find out more

Could you help promote the Kickstart Scheme? Use the new [Kickstart Scheme Communications Toolkit](#), packed with new assets, to help spread the word, get businesses signed up, provide life-changing opportunities to young people and help the wider economic recovery.

If you haven't heard about the Kickstart, check out the new [Kickstart Employer Prospectus](#). Alternatively, please contact the Employer & Partnership Manager for Argyll & Bute for more information by emailing elizabeth.macbrayne2@dwp.gov.uk

Plan for Jobs Skills and Employment Programmes

The [Plan for Jobs skills and employment programmes](#) information for employers page on GOV.UK has been updated. It includes information on a range of government programmes, some of which offer financial incentives, are available for employers who are considering hiring employees, offering work experience or upskilling existing staff.

The Government's Plan for Jobs is working with 1.3 million employees who moved off furlough in March and April. The [furlough scheme](#) will remain in place until the end of September to ensure jobs are protected as businesses get back on their feet.

DWP and Google

DWP has partnered with Google to provide 9,000 jobseekers across the UK with scholarships to gain a Google Career Certificate. Jobseekers will have access to Google IT Certificates which focuses on IT Support, Data Analyst, Project Manager and UX Designer ensuring that the labour market of tomorrow stands a better chance of getting that job. These certificates are recognised by industry experts and employers.

The scholarship will let jobseekers access courses to grow the necessary skills for a career in technology and IT, with DWP customers being referred to the scholarships by their Work Coach.

Civil Service Recruitment

The UK Government has launched a new **recruitment campaign** - 'Closer to Home' to encourage people in Scotland to apply for hundreds of vacancies in the UK Civil Service. There is a wide range of career opportunities within the Civil Service, including many remote working opportunities. Current vacancies can be found at [Civil Service job search - Civil Service Jobs - GOV.UK](#)

MoneyHelper

The Money and Pensions Service has launched [MoneyHelper](#) a new support service and website for customers. This brings together the Money Advice Service, The Pensions Advisory Service and Pension Wise. The three legacy websites for those services are no longer active.

Special Rules for Terminal Illness Update

The current Special Rules for Terminal Illness which fast-track benefit applications for those with a terminal diagnosis of six months is to be replaced with a new 12-month, end of life definition.

The change will ensure that people in the final year of their life will receive financial support quicker than they can do at present, at a higher rate through revised Special Rules. The move ensures that clinicians still have discretion and are supported by a realistic and straightforward definition, consistent with current NHS practice. More information can be found in the press release on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/special-rules-for-terminal-illness).

Bereavement support update

On 15 July a draft plan was laid before Parliament which will extend bereavement support to an extra 22,500 people.

This will extend Widowed Parent's Allowance and Bereavement Support Payment to surviving co-habiting partners with children who were living with their partner at the time of death. These changes will be retrospective, and will apply from 30 August 2018.

Shared Accommodation Rate changes

DWP has implemented changes to the Shared Accommodation Rate that will help thousands of vulnerable care leavers access additional housing support. The changes mean that care leavers can now claim the higher one-bedroom rate for longer, as the maximum age limit has been raised to 25, from 22.

Also, anyone who has lived in a homeless hostel for three months or more, regardless of age, will now be able to claim the higher rate, as the age limit has been removed.