

Return to Work Credit

Return to Work Credit is a tax-free payment of £40 per week. It can be payable for up to 52 weeks as long as:

- your job is expected to last at least five weeks AND
- you are working on average over 16 hours a week AND
- you are earning no more than £15,000, gross, per year AND
- you are earning at least the National Minimum Wage AND
- you have been in receipt of an incapacity benefit for 13 continuous weeks or more

Self Employment Credit

Self Employment Credit is a tax-free payment of £50 per week. It can be payable for up to 16 weeks as long as:

- your job is expected to last at least five weeks AND
- you are working on average over 16 hours a week AND
- you are earning no more than £15,000, gross, per year AND
- you have been in receipt of a job seekers allowance for 26 continuous weeks or more AND
- In Work Credit

In Work Credit is a fixed tax-free payment of £40 per week for parents bringing up children alone. It can be payable for up to 52 weeks as long as:

- you are bringing up children on your own AND
- you are starting work of at least 16 hours a week AND
- you expect that work to last five weeks or more AND
- you have been getting Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance or a combination of these benefits for at least 52 weeks or more without a break

You need to claim for it before you start work (speak to lone parent adviser).

Extended payment of Housing/Council Tax Benefit

Extended payment of Housing/Council tax benefit is payable for 4 weeks as long as:

- you were in receipt of income based jobseekers allowance or income support or employment and support allowance (income based) for at least 26 weeks prior to commencing work

If you are on a low income you may still be eligible for Housing/Council Tax Benefit and to claim you will require to provide your new finance information ie wage slips, bank statements and benefit awards. Housing Benefit calculator is available at www.stirling.gov.uk/benefits_calculator if you wish to check if you are still entitled to help towards your rent prior to providing your finance information.

Job Grant

A job grant is a tax-free lump sum of £100-£250 depending on your circumstances as long as:

- you will be working at least 16 hours a week and you expect the work to last for at least five weeks or your partner starts working at least 24 hours per week and as a result your benefit stops AND
- you had been claiming one of the Jobseekers Allowance/Income Support/Employment Support Allowance/Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance continuously for at least 26 weeks prior to starting work
- you will automatically be paid a job grant if you're eligible in the same way as your benefit was paid

To be eligible for any of the above you MUST inform the Jobcentre Plus that you will be commencing work if you are in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance. Then complete a booklet advising of employment., if you are in receipt of any other benefit then a telephone call followed by a letter, advising the appropriate Benefit Delivery Centre that you have started working