

Moving to Universal Credit – Transitional Relief

The government has always intended to eventually move people from their current benefits (known as legacy benefits) to Universal Credit through a process called 'managed migration'.

Managed migration was paused during the Covid-19 pandemic but since the summer of 2022 some people in certain areas have started to receive Migration Notice letters asking them to claim Universal Credit. People in other areas will receive a letter in due course but this will be slowly rolled out.

If you receive a Migration Notice, meaning you need to go through the managed migration process, and you end up being entitled to less under Universal Credit than your current legacy benefits, you could be entitled to a top-up payment so that you do not lose out. This is called a 'transitional element'.

Severe Disability Premium and transitional elements

There is no equivalent to the Severe Disability Premium in Universal Credit.

Between 16 January 2019 and 27 January 2021 a block was put in place stopping working age people who receive an SDP from moving to Universal Credit if they had a relevant [change in their circumstances](#). The block was put in place to prevent a considerable loss in benefit income for SDP recipients.

The block was lifted on 27 January 2021 and, instead, a top-up payment called an '**SDP transitional element**' has been added to UC for SDP claimants who move to UC. This extra element is only available to those who were entitled to an award of Income support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support allowance that included an SDP, not those who only had an SDP in their Housing Benefit.

For further information and if you are affected at all by these conditions above please contact our **Advocacy team** on **01292 822247**, or **advocacy@25megroup.org**