



Welfare Reform Act 2012

2012 CHAPTER 5

PART 1

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

CHAPTER 2

CLAIMANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Application of work-related requirements

21 Claimants subject to work preparation requirement

- (1) A claimant falls within this section if the claimant does not fall within section 19 or 20 and—
 - (a) the claimant has limited capability for work,
 - [^{F1}(aa) the claimant is the responsible carer for a child who is aged 2,] or
 - (b) the claimant is of a prescribed description.
- (2) The Secretary of State may, subject to this Part, impose a work preparation requirement on a claimant falling within this section.
- (3) The Secretary of State may also, subject to this Part, impose a work-focused interview requirement on a claimant falling within this section.
- (4) The Secretary of State may not impose any other work-related requirement on a claimant falling within this section (and, where a claimant falls within this section, any other work-related requirement previously applying to the claimant ceases to have effect).

^{F2}(5)

Changes to legislation: Welfare Reform Act 2012, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 21(1)(aa) inserted (3.4.2017) by [Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 17(1)(b)**, 36(6); S.I. 2017/111, [reg. 3\(c\)](#)
- F2** S. 21(5) omitted (3.4.2017) by virtue of [Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 17(1)(c)**, 36(6); S.I. 2017/111, [reg. 3\(c\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 1 modified by 1995 c. 18, Sch. 1 para. 2(3) (as inserted (29.4.2013) by [The Universal Credit \(Consequential, Supplementary, Incidental and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/630\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), **10(b)**)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 21 in force at 29.4.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/983](#), [art. 3\(2\)-\(6\)](#), [Sch. 1](#), **Sch. 2** (as amended: (1.7.2013) by [S.I. 2013/1511](#); (29.10.2013) by [S.I. 2013/2657](#); (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (15.9.2014) by [S.I. 2014/2321](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (21.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3094](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#) (as amended (10.2.2015) by [S.I. 2015/101](#)); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.11.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1930](#); (6.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/483](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (16.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/10](#); and (31.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/167](#))
- I2** S. 21 in force at 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/1511](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch.** (as amended or modified: (29.10.2013) by [S.I. 2013/2657](#); (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); and (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#))
- I3** S. 21 in force at 28.10.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/2657](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch.** (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); and (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#))
- I4** S. 21 in force at 25.11.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/2846](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch.** (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); and (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#))
- I5** S. 21 in force at 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/209](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch.** (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); and (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#))
- I6** S. 21 in force at 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/1583](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch.** (as amended or modified: (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); and (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#))
- I7** S. 21 in force at 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/2321](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch.** (as amended or modified: (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3057](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (29.9.2016) by [S.I. 2016/963](#); (24.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/584](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); and (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#))
- I8** S. 21 in force at 26.11.2014 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/3094](#), [art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#))
- I9** S. 21 in force at 28.1.2015 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/33](#), [art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#)) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by [S.I. 2015/101](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (6.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/483](#); (11.4.2018)

Changes to legislation: Welfare Reform Act 2012, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167)
- I10** S. 21 in force at 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.I. 2015/101, **art. 3** (with **art. 2(2)-(4)**) (as amended or modified: (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (14.1.2016) by S.I. 2016/33; (21.3.2016) by S.I. 2016/407; (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; (29.9.2016) by S.I. 2016/963; (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57; (24.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/584; (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664; (28.9.2017) by S.I. 2017/952; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (26.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/532; and (19.7.2018) by S.I. 2018/881)
- I11** S. 21 in force at 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.I. 2015/634, **art. 3** (with **arts. 5, 7**) (as amended or modified: (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (21.3.2016) by S.I. 2016/407; (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; (29.9.2016) by S.I. 2016/963; (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (24.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/584; (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664; (28.9.2017) by S.I. 2017/952; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (26.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/532; (19.7.2018) by S.I. 2018/881; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167)
- I12** S. 21 in force at 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.I. 2015/1537, **art. 3** (as amended or modified: (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (14.1.2016) by S.I. 2016/33; (21.3.2016) by S.I. 2016/407; (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; (29.9.2016) by S.I. 2016/963; (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57; (24.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/584; (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664; (28.9.2017) by S.I. 2017/952; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (26.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/532; and (19.7.2018) by S.I. 2018/881)
- I13** S. 21 in force at 2.12.2015 for specified purposes by S.I. 2015/1930, **art. 3** (with **art. 7**)
- I14** S. 21 in force at 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes by S.I. 2016/33, **art. 3**, **Sch.** (with **art. 7**)
- I15** S. 21 in force at 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes by S.I. 2016/407, **art. 3**, **Sch.**
- I16** S. 21 in force at 1.2.2019 for specified purposes by S.I. 2019/167, **art. 4(1)-(3)** (with **art. 4(4)(11)**)
- I17** S. 21 in force at 30.3.2022 in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2022/302, **art. 3** (with **arts. 4, 5, Sch.**)

Changes to legislation:

Welfare Reform Act 2012, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/1511 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 51314Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/2657 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 4-6Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/2657 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 1315Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/2846 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 347Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983 by [S.I. 2018/138 art. 3](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983 by [S.I. 2019/10 reg. 3\(1\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983 by [S.I. 2019/167 art. 5\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983, art. 5A(1), 6(1) by [S.I. 2017/483 art. 2](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/1583 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 5Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/209 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 348Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/209 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 1016Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 59Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 37813Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2017/584 art. 5Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 5Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 3-510Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 46-1214Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 3-9111217Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2017/584 art. 346-9Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 3-57-9Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 3411Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 3-1215Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 3-7912Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2017/584 art. 346-9Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 3-9Sch.](#)

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2018/138 art. 6](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2019/10 reg. 3\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2019/167 art. 5\(3\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2019/37 art. 5](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33, art. 6(11) by [S.I. 2017/483 art. 3](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2018/138 art. 6](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2019/10 reg. 3\(3\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2019/167 art. 5\(4\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2019/37 art. 5](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634, art. 7(2) by [S.I. 2017/376 reg. 4](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2016/596 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 17](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2019/37 by [S.I. 2019/935 art. 2](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2014/1583 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 5](#)