



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ministerial
Correspondence
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www.gov.uk


Chris Loder MP

Our ref: 

Dear Chris


24th February 2020

Thank you for your letter of 24 January to the Secretary of State on behalf of Bridport Citizens Advice who wrote on behalf of  regarding conflicting eligibility guidance for the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) programme. I am replying as the Minister for Employment.

Firstly, I would like to thank Bridport Citizens Advice for highlighting this issue.

The NEA guidance regarding eligibility for the programme is clear – that those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Credits Only are eligible for NEA support. However, there is some ambiguity between the eligibility criteria set out in the NEA guidance and the definition of persons in receipt of National Insurance credits as 'non-claimants' in the New Style JSA guidance.

The New Style JSA guidance states that non-claimants are not eligible for any DWP programme support. I can confirm that this is not the case and my officials are correcting the JSA guidance to reflect that those claiming National Insurance credits only are eligible for some DWP programme support, including the NEA.

I can also assure you that my officials have been in touch with  local Jobcentre to inform them of the error in the JSA guidance and to let them know that she is eligible for NEA support should she still be interested in self-employment.

Yours ever
Mims

Mims Davies MP

Minister for Employment

