

Housing Benefit

Urgent Bulletin

Department for Work and Pensions, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

HB U1/2015

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Who should read	All Housing Benefit (HB) staff
Action	For information

Clarification on the impact of sanctions on Housing Benefit

Background

- Concerns have been raised by customer representative groups regarding the incorrect impact of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)/Incapacity Benefit (IB) Sanctions on Housing Benefit (HB). This bulletin is intended to:
 - clarify the actions for local authorities (LAs) relating to sanctions, as directed in the Automated Transfer to Local Authority System (ATLAS) guidance (available through Glasscubes), and
 - demonstrate the different impacts of disallowances and sanctions on claimants.

Sanction & disallowance impact on HB

- When a sanction is applied entitlement to benefits will continue but will not be payable for a fixed period of time. **Claimants who are receiving passported HB should continue to do so without interruption** when a sanction is applied.

3. A sanction differs from a disallowance. If a claim is disallowed, the claim and payments cease under the normal rules; there is no underlying entitlement.

ATLAS notification of sanctions

4. The ATLAS notification displays three awards:
 - Award No 1 - Current award with award amount and an end date
 - Award No 2 - Sanctioned period. The award amount for this award will still display the actual amount; however the award will be labelled 'Sanctioned'
 - Award No 3 - A further award will follow this which will be £0.00 pending an entitlement review.
5. As per bulletin HB/CTB [G4/2010](#), no action should be taken on the HB claim as a result of a sanction. Effectively the sanction notifications can be ignored/completed with no action.
6. It should be noted that once the review action is undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) the award **after** the sanctioned period is usually re-instated unless there has been a change in the claimant's circumstances. The ATLAS notification for this will be filtered out by the DWP filtering rules and you will not receive this.

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