

## **Restrictions to Lone Parent Availability**

A lone parent whose youngest child is aged 12 or under, has the right to restrict their availability for work to their child's normal school hours. For more information, see the Labour Market Conditions Guide.

These claimants must be identified at the Initial Work Search Interview, have the right explained to them and informed that they can exercise this right at any time during their claim. The availability restrictions provided to Jobseekers with caring responsibilities must also be explained.

Lone parents may be directed to, or given the Lone Parent Factsheet from the Gov.uk website which gives basic information about the restrictions that can be applied to their availability.

If the claimant chooses to exercise this right, details of the hours and days they are available must be recorded on their Claimant Commitment. The fact that these restrictions are because the claimant has exercised this right, as a lone parent should also be recorded.

To help identify that a claimant has exercised this right and to capture the number of these claimants, they must be recorded on the Labour Market System (LMS), as being part of the "LP Avail Rest Norm Schools Hrs" Caseload.

The claimant only retains the right to restrict their availability to their child's normal school hours during their child's school term time. However, they can continue to restrict their availability during school holidays, in line with "restricted availability for Jobseekers with caring responsibilities".

This must be discussed with the claimant at the end of each school term if necessary. If a change to the claimant's availability is needed, an interview must be booked and an amended Claimant Commitment must be agreed.

### **Flexibility for Lone Parents where their youngest child is aged 5 and is not yet legally required to receive full-time education**

Lone parents in these cases can be treated as available for and actively seeking work if it would be unreasonable for them to make other arrangements for the care of their child. For example because appropriate and affordable childcare is not available.

For example because appropriate and affordable childcare is not available. The lone parent would have to show that they have taken reasonable steps to find appropriate childcare and are unable to do so. This will apply until arrangements have been made for the care of the child, the child begins to receive full-time education or is legally required to receive full-time education, under current school admission policies in England, Scotland and Wales.

A child is legally required to attend school from the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday.

The Parent marker for the JSA Flexibilities for Lone Parents and Parent (Couples) needs to be set.

If taking part in a programme or provision, the provider must be notified of any revised Availability and/or ASE requirements by following the instructions on notifying changes of circumstance to providers.