



### Good News Story – PIP

Our client suffers from several long term health conditions which impact his daily life, and had been medically retired, as a result. He had applied for Personal Independence payment (PIP) for the second time and had been rejected. He approached ERCAB for advice.

We lodged a Mandatory Consideration for our client, which was subsequently rejected. We then lodged an Appeal and supported our client in Representation at the First –Tier Tribunal Court.

Through targeted evidence and submissions, we were successful in overturning the DWP decision at the Appeal Tribunal.

Our client was awarded backdated payments of over £3700 with an ongoing additional monthly payment of £238. This has helped our client bridge the gap created through his unplanned early retirement.

***“The funds went into our bank yesterday - we can't believe it. We send our appreciation as we would never have got through all the process without your help, you are a Godsend”***

For help filling out or appealing a PIP form, please contact the bureau on **0141 881 2032** to speak to a benefits adviser.

### Good News Story – Money Advice

Client contacted ERCAB for Debt Advice. She has severe mental health problems which have been exacerbated due to COVID and in turn affected her ability to manage her finances.

Our Money Adviser contacted all of the client's creditors with a completed Debt & Mental Health Form. As a result client's creditors have agreed to write off her debts – total of £1744. The client was extremely grateful for the help and says she feels a huge sense of relief and has had her first full night's sleep in months.

For Debt and Money advice please contact our Money Adviser, Julie, on: **07901607309** or our Money Advice Admin, Meghan on: **07871616181**.

### New Self Employed Hardship Fund

The Scottish Government have started a new grant scheme to help alleviate financial hardship for newly self-employed people who meet the eligibility criteria set out below.

To be eligible for the Newly Self Employed Hardship Fund, you must be able to demonstrate that you:

1. Became self-employed on or after 6 April 2019 but before 17 March 2020 (and are therefore ineligible for the UK Government's Self Employment Income Support Scheme because you did not submit a tax return including income from self-employment for 2018-19)
2. Became self-employed between 1 October 2018 and 6 April 2019 but are ineligible for the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) because you weren't self-employed for a sufficient period of time in the 2018/19 Financial Year to demonstrate that you derived 50% of your income from self-employment.

This scheme offers a one-off £4,000 payment for those whose status as being newly self-employed makes them ineligible for the UK Government's Coronavirus (Covid-19) Self-employment Income Support Scheme.

It is free to apply for the grant and it doesn't need to be repaid. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit or some other DWP benefits, receiving this grant may affect your benefit entitlement. This could mean you need to pay some money back to DWP, or that your future payments are reduced.

The fund will remain open for a four-week period. The deadline for applications is 5pm on 16 March 2021. For more information on how to apply, please visit;

[https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/funding/newly-self-employed-hardship-fund?fbclid=IwAR0xQQgO5A-eFbEOooUe-ttQyOnR\\_9\\_9JxmugZ-QLhSBi5OMXwagCI94uPM#involves](https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/funding/newly-self-employed-hardship-fund?fbclid=IwAR0xQQgO5A-eFbEOooUe-ttQyOnR_9_9JxmugZ-QLhSBi5OMXwagCI94uPM#involves)

Please feel free to distribute the contact details for our advisers provided on our Facebook page. Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

**Email-bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk**

**Tel - 0141 881 2032**