

Easements for claimants on Universal Credit

These easements can also be applied to claimants on Jobseeker's Allowance

Compulsory Switch off	Duration
Unfit for work	Requirements for work search and availability for first 14 days for a period of sickness (2 periods of sickness in a rolling 12 month period)
Temporary absence abroad to receive medical treatment or accompanying a child or partner abroad	Easement for up to 6 months if medically approved
Bereavement of a partner or child	Initially for 3 months, all requirements switched off, optional support may apply for a further 3 months – no sanctions will be applied
Domestic Violence and Abuse	13 weeks initially and this can be extended for a further 13 weeks if the claimant is the main carer of a child. Voluntary appointments will be offered after the first 13 weeks
Carer for a child in considerable distress	Up to 1 month in any 6 month period for a maximum of 2 years
Drug/Alcohol dependency	Up to 6 months but needs to be reviewed regularly to encourage engagement and confirm attendance

Easements for claimants on Universal Credit

These easements can also be applied to claimants on Jobseeker's Allowance

Compulsory Switch off	Duration
Carrying out a public duty	For the period covered by the circumstances
Witness Protection	For up to 3 months
Prisoners	For up to 6 months, if the claimant is receiving housing costs

Easements for claimants on Universal Credit

These easements can also be applied to claimants on Jobseeker's Allowance

Discretionary Switch off	Duration
Domestic Emergency	No defined duration but normally up to 1 month, and is on a case-by-case basis
Homeless	Normally up to 1 month but to be reviewed regularly to check that the claimant is resolving their accommodation issues
Temporary Childcare responsibilities	For the period covered by the circumstances