

HB Alerts

Circular Reference:		G4/2010	
Subject:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JSA sanctions changes• New Statutory Instruments• “What’s new on the web”	Effective Date:	IMMEDIATE
Summary JSA sanctions changes From 6 April 2010 DWP is introducing an additional sanction which will be imposed on JSA claimants who do not attend a Jobcentre Plus ongoing signing-on interview. The purpose of the sanction is to encourage claimants to attend those interviews which are a qualifying condition of their benefit. If a customer does not attend an interview or appointment and doesn’t provide DWP with an acceptable reason as to why not, their entitlement to JSA will continue but they will not be paid for a one week period. However, if they fail to attend a further interview or appointment connected with the same claim they will not be paid for a fixed period of a fortnight. This will occur only when the customer has contacted JCP within 5 days of missing the appointment. The claimant will not be required to reclaim JSA after sanction periods; their claim will effectively continue during these periods, but without payment being made. This underlying entitlement means that HB/CTB based on JSA will remain unaffected during the period when no JSA payment is made to the customer as the result of the sanction. If the customer does not contact DWP within the 5 day period, their entitlement to JSA will cease as normal and the local authority will be notified of the cancellation in the normal way. Claimants who are subjected to periods of sanction are not entitled to DHPs to assist them with the shortfall in their income resulting from the sanction. Statutory Instruments Circular G4/2010 contains a comprehensive list of Statutory Instruments effective in March and April 2010. These SIs can be downloaded by LAs from the DWP website. “What’s new on the web” This Circular gives LAs guidance on how to access recent circulars, bulletins and guidance notes via the DWP’s website.			
Suggested Action JSA sanctions changes Managers should ensure that pre-assessment, assessment and customer services staff are aware of the new JSA sanction, and that it will not directly impact on HB/CTB entitlement except when a cancellation is received. Any such cancellations will need to be handled in the normal way. Staff should also be made aware that customers subject to the sanction are not entitled to Discretionary Housing Payments.			
Other References:		None	