

Revenues and Benefits Discussion Group

17 July 2023



In
Partnership
with

LA Directories
Limited



Meet the panel

(not everyone is available every week)

- Naomi Armstrong, Benefits Cambridge City Council
- Laura Bessell, Benefits Manager, Oxford City Council
- Alex Clegg & Tylor-Maria Johnson, Policy in Practice
- Nicki Duckworth, EntitledTo, Marshalling
- Malcolm Gardner, Visionary Network, Chair
- Paul Howarth, Independent Consultant
- Gareth Morgan, CEO Ferret Information Systems
- Megan Shepherd, Mid-Sussex District Council
- Kevin Stewart, Erewash Borough Council
- Bob Wagstaff, PSPS (Boston, South Holland, East Lindsey)
- Liz Whitehead-Davis, Hexagon Housing

Any comments made by panellists are their own personal views and do not necessarily reflect the positions of their organisations.



In Partnership with

LA Directories Limited

Discussion Points

Office for
**Budget
Responsibility**



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**LA Directories
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VISIONARY NETWORK
The Independent Revenues and Benefits Discussion Group

“
**COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION
CLEAR & CONCISE**
Let us make it simple for you
”

Save money, improve efficiency,,
help your vulnerable citizens,
build trust.

<http://www.visionarynetwork.co.uk>

Welcome to a new era of council tax deduction schemes



Finding the
right
information
has never been
easier with



The law and practice relating to Welfare Benefits is complex, detailed, open to interpretation and endlessly dynamic

LA Directories Ltd is here to help professionals across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland correctly and efficiently identify and understand the ever-changing law and guidance that governs the calculation of entitlement to Housing Benefit, Rates (Northern Ireland), Universal Credit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payment.

LA Directories Ltd takes the law and guidance relating to Housing Benefit, Rates, Universal Credit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payment then interprets and consolidates it into three product ranges...

- The Benefits Directory a web-based knowledge management solution
- The Training Directory provision of open and in-house training courses at all levels
- Consultancy services

Local authorities across England, Wales and Scotland are using our services as well as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

E-mail services.enquiries@ladirectories.com

Peter Davis, Marketing & Account Management

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M: 07807 009 959

Ferret Information Systems Ltd



Ferret Information Systems was established in 1987 and is the largest company in Europe in the field of law dealing with welfare benefits and similar areas of determinative, compliance, and regulatory law.



our training services:

Ferret is well placed to provide training services and its team of specialists have wide experience of benefits and housing grant legislation. We also provide consultancy to organisations, companies and government on the impact of legislative and policy changes.



our products:

Ferret produces a wide variety of systems, designed to provide support tools for advice workers, and also to provide information and advice directly to the public. Ferret specialises in a holistic assessment of financial circumstances relating to welfare benefits and tax credits entitlement, coupled with software development methodology which offers a high level of flexibility and rapid updating to reflect rule changes.



our platforms:

Systems supported include network, desktop, laptop, mobile devices, Internet and Intranet systems, and a public access system in multi-lingual, multi-media form for touch screen kiosks and public access PC's.



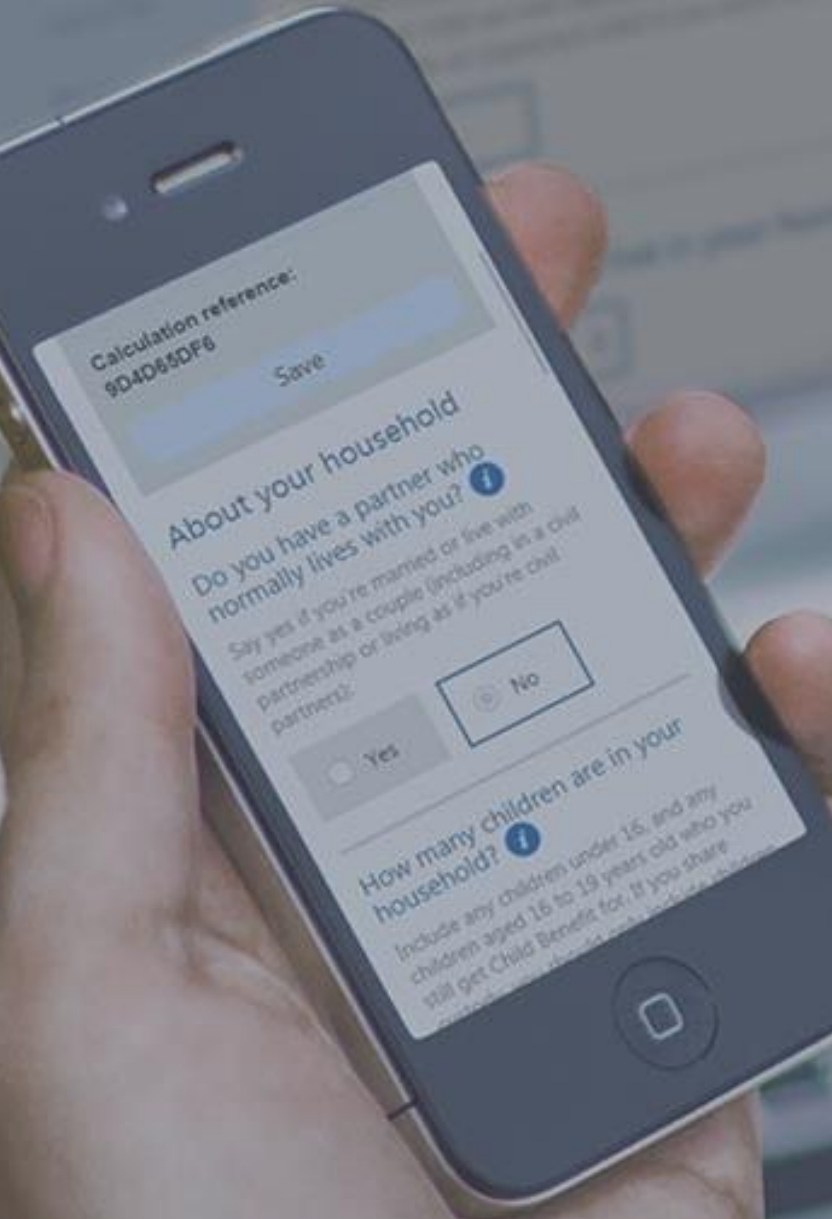
our customers:

Users of Ferret systems include government departments, local authorities, housing associations, CABx, HIA's and other advice agencies, universities, social welfare organisations, libraries, solicitors and financial advisers.

<https://www.ferret.co.uk/>

entitledto

independent | accurate | reliable



Our mission is to help everyone to access the benefits they're entitled to.

Since 2000 we have used our in-depth knowledge of the UK's social security system to build a range of authoritative and accurate calculators to help you and your clients understand their legitimate benefits entitlement.

Our tools are designed to be quick, simple and easy to use, so your staff and clients feel empowered to deal with the benefits system with confidence.

In response to evolving business needs and ongoing local and national policy changes, we will continue to work with and for our clients to develop new features and functionality.

Our goal is to assist your teams in adapting to legislative changes and welfare reform so you can help more people find out what benefits they are entitled to, thereby improving their circumstances and those of their families.



Ascendant Solutions
data management

Barnet Council has become the first local authority to launch the Ascendant apply4.online application form, designed to support residents with the rise in cost of living.

The InBest benefits calculator has been integrated into Ascendant's apply4.online support application, to make it easier for people who are experiencing financial difficulties to find out what support is available to them.

It includes information on benefits such as Universal Credit, Pensions Credit, Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payment, as well as local financial support initiatives including council tax support and the residents support fund.

Barnet Council Leader, Cllr Barry Rawlings said: "The cost-of-living crisis is affecting us all, and we want to ensure Barnet residents know what financial support is available to them and how they can access these services.

"It is very positive to see Barnet is the first local authority to launch this free tool, and we hope to see many other local councils doing the same to help their residents."

To find out what financial support is available to help with the cost-of-living visit [Barnet Council Benefits Calculator](#)



Apply4.Online®

A request



- Ferret, EntitledTo, Policy in Practice & InBest all must update the CTR element of their calculators. All four have asked if you would you be kind enough to upload copies of your 2023/24 schemes to bit.ly/CTR2324
- This will really help those vulnerable families who rely on their calculators for advice to increase their incomes.
- If you operate local welfare schemes, can you tell them about those too.

End

Malcolm Gardner, Visionary Network Consultant

07946800171

mg@malcolmgardner.com

Book a meeting with Malcolm <https://bit.ly/VNMGTime>



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Join the discussion

Each Monday lunchtime, a panel of professionals leads a discussion on revenue and benefits administration issues. The panel consists of council & housing officers, policy advisors, and analysts.

It is a free service that is well attended. Attendees make good contributions; everyone gets a chance to speak. Attendees includes senior managers, team leaders, suppliers, and support staff

You can join in the discussion during the week (and start some new ones) by joining our WhatsApp group: <https://bit.ly/3Qjrkqe>

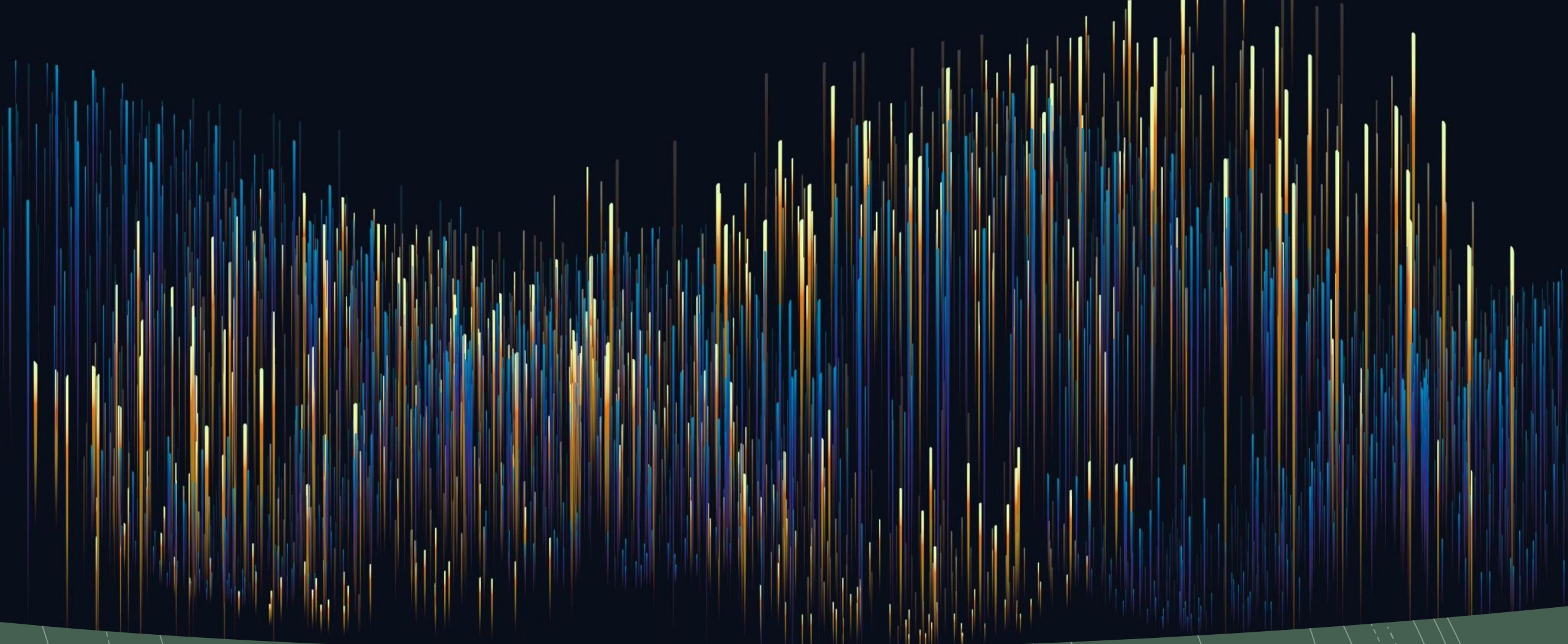
Links to the recordings and the slide packs plus other relevant documents will be posted into both the WhatsApp group and in the Teams Channel and emailed to those who attended and subscribers to the group.

To sign up just email malcolm@visionarynetwork.co.uk with your name, organisation and email address. We are inclusive because sharing information and good practice is essential. You don't have to attend every session; recordings will be available.



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Main Discussion Points



OBR: Financial Risk & Sustainability

- The 2020s has seen numerous financial crises impacting public finances including the Covid pandemic, the energy and cost-of-living crisis, and rising interest rates.
- These factors have resulted in the deepest recession in three centuries, an unprecedented increase in energy prices, and the steepest sustained increase in borrowing costs.
- As a result, government borrowing, debt, and the cost of servicing that debt have reached their highest levels in several decades.

OBR: Financial Risk & Sustainability

- Governments now face escalating costs due to societal aging, climate change, and increasing geopolitical tensions.
- State pension spending is expected to increase by £23 billion by 2027-28 due to the retirement of the 'baby boom' generation and high inflation.
- Costs associated with the transition to net zero and rising defense spending are expected to reach £30 billion and £13 billion annually by 2030, respectively.

OBR: Financial Risk & Sustainability

Three fiscal risks emphasised in this report:

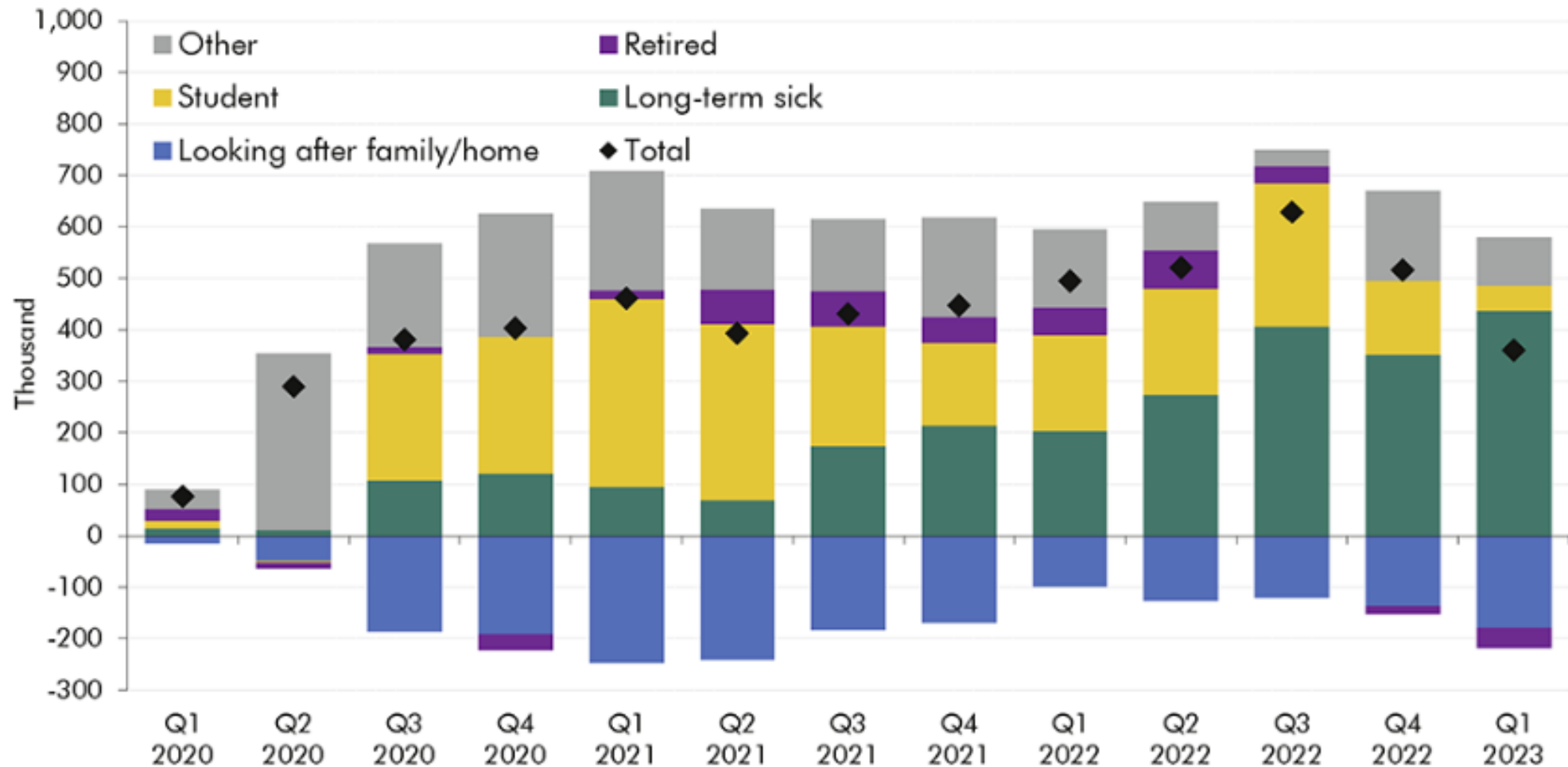
- the increase in health-related inactivity among working-age adults post-pandemic.
- the impact of rising gas prices on energy demand/supply and the fiscal implications of meeting or not meeting the 2050 net zero emissions target.
- the vulnerability of current government debt levels, the effects of recent interest rate rises, and the prospects for reducing debt.

Other risks on the risk register from July 2021.

Post-Pandemic Labour Market Changes

- The working-age labour market participation reached a high of 77% in the early 2020s but declined post-pandemic with a peak inactivity rate of 21.7% in mid-2022.
- Despite a temporary surge in student and early retiree inactivity, a significant and enduring increase in inactivity was among those citing ill-health as the main reason for being out of the labor market.
- As of early 2023, there were 2.6 million working-age people inactive due to health reasons, forming the largest segment of the economically inactive population.

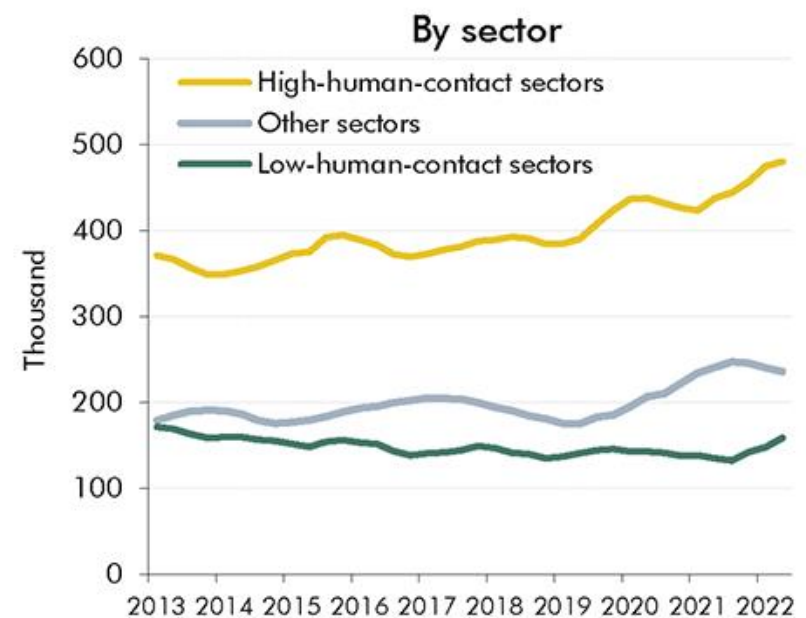
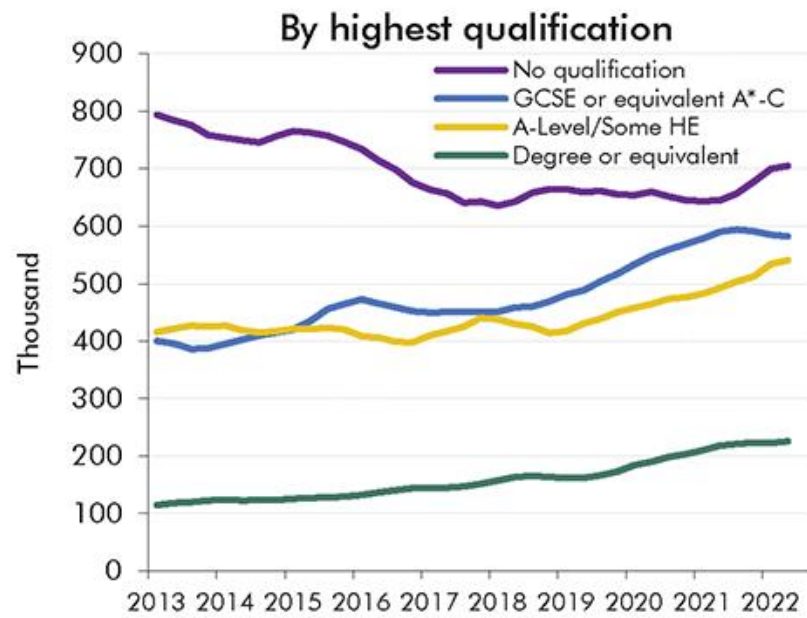
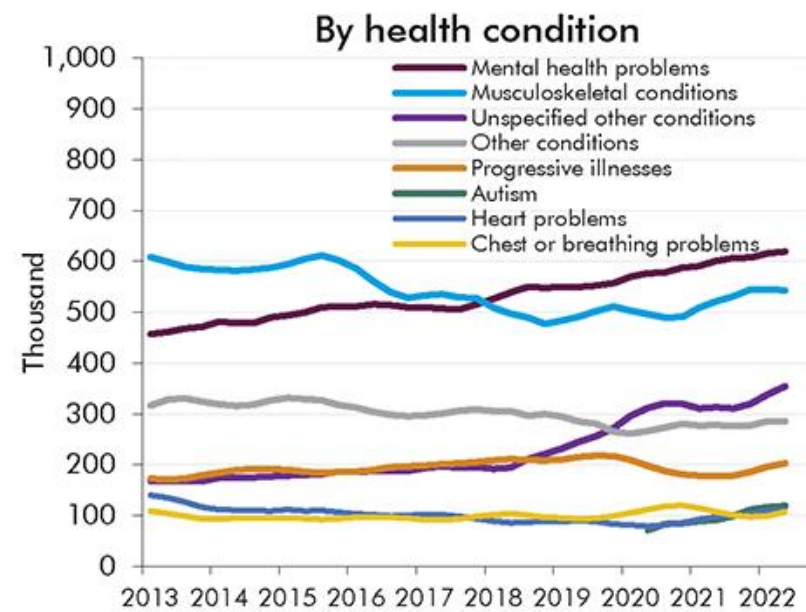
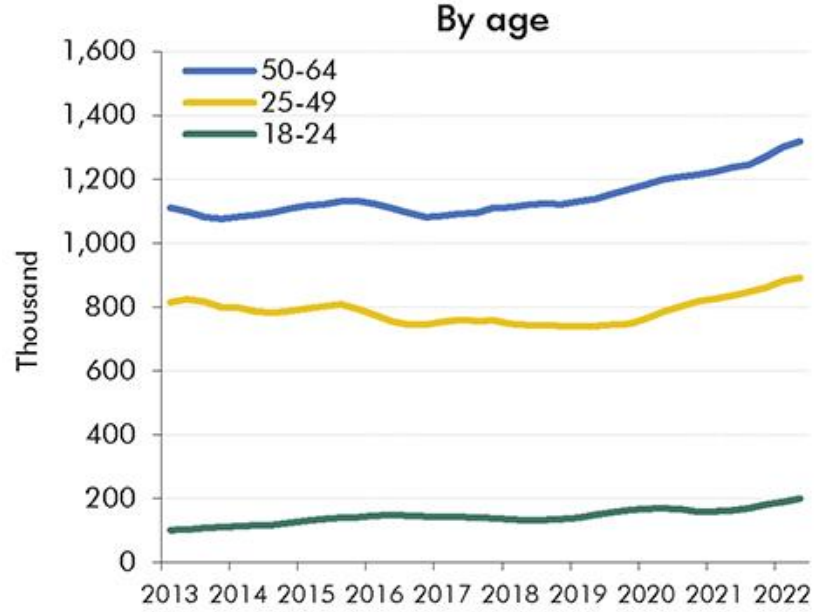
Chart 1.1: The rise in working-age inactivity since early 2020



Note: Changes are shown relative to December-February 2020 – the pre-pandemic low-point for the 16-64-year-old inactivity rate.
 Source: ONS

Factors and Demographics of Health-Related Inactivity

- Three main factors contributed to this increase: deteriorating health conditions (especially mental health), pandemic's direct and indirect impact on health, and rising onflows to health-related benefits.
- Those contributing significantly to the post-pandemic rise in health-related inactivity include older individuals (50-64), those with mental health issues, relatively low-skilled workers, and those previously working in lower-paid, customer-facing service industries.
- However, most of these individuals have been out of work since before the pandemic, which poses a challenge for efforts to reverse this trend.



Note: High-human-contact sectors include distribution, hotels, restaurants, health and education; other sectors include other services, transport and communication; low-human-contact sectors account for the rest. Autism data only available from 2020. Data cover working-age adults only and are smoothed using annual rolling averages.

Source: OBR analysis of unpublished LFS microdata

Impact and Future Scenarios of Health-Related Inactivity

- The rise in health-related inactivity and in-work ill-health burdens the public finances through increased welfare spending, foregone tax revenue, and higher health care spending.
- Three future scenarios: the March 2023 EFO forecast, an upside scenario with faster recovery in working-age participation, and a downside scenario with further decline in participation.
- In the upside scenario, borrowing reduces by £18.7 billion by 2027-28, while in the downside scenario, borrowing rises by £21.3 billion by 2027-28.
- Strategies to reverse the rise in health-related inactivity could significantly relieve pressure on public finances.

Increased Welfare Spending

- A large number of people are out of the workforce due to health reasons or working with a health condition, leading to financial pressures.
- Increased welfare spending:
 - Over 80% of people inactive for health reasons claim health-related benefits.
 - This group's claim to incapacity benefits has increased more than 100% in the past three years.
 - There has been an average increase in universal credit awards of around £10,000 per year.
 - There's a rising disability benefits claim among both working and non-working groups.
 - The total increase in welfare spending due to a 440,000 increase in health-related inactivity and 490,000 increase in ill-health among those in work is approximately £6.8 billion in 2023-24.

Lost Tax

- Lost tax revenue due to non-working or part-working individuals:
- The majority of health-inactive individuals would likely have worked in low-wage jobs.
- Based on past three years' data, average loss in income tax and NICs per person is £5,000 a year.
- The total loss due to rising health-related inactivity and in-work ill-health is about £2.2 billion.
- Combined with lost tax and NICs revenues due to rising ill-health within the working population (£3.0 billion) and indirect tax effects (£3.7 billion), the total tax loss is likely £8.9 billion a year in 2023-24.

Increased Healthcare Spending

- There's a link between economic inactivity duration and worsening health.
- Each individual moving into health-related inactivity costs the NHS between £900 and £1,800 a year.
- These costs are expected to increase in the future due to the proven negative effect of worklessness on health.

Conclusion

- Some clearly worrying risks outlined by the OBR
- Will impact on any incoming Government post-election
- Choices about how much is invested in the NHS, but also indicates the need for reform
- Significant impact on local government as more residents feel the squeeze – more impact in later years
- Resilience of the labour market may give us some cause for optimism



Other news

Potential Section 114 notices

- Due to increasing service demands and debt costs, Guildford Borough Council and Hastings Borough Council are warning of financial instability.
- Although a section 114 notice is not anticipated for 2023-24, Guildford's £300m debt burden has posed significant financial challenges.
 - It plans to reconsider the notice at a full council meeting in October.
 - Due to internal operational issues and a lean finance team, the council currently faces an £18m medium-term deficit.
- Hastings Borough Council faces a similar situation due to an overspend of £2.4m in the 2022-23 homelessness budget.
 - If this problem is not addressed urgently, the council warns it could be served with a section 114 notice.
 - Auditors have also identified inadequate organisational capacity as a barrier to managing budget deficits.
 - To shed more light on its financial status, the council has requested a peer challenge from the Local Government Association.
- Due to budget cuts, Southampton City Council has sought help from CIPFA.
 - CIPFA confirmed the authority's need to issue a section 114 notice later this year unless spending can be significantly reduced.
 - The report, commissioned by the council, explained that the overspend runs at £1.8m a month.

Public adopt AI

- More than a quarter of UK adults have used generative artificial intelligence such as chatbots, according to survey showing that 4 million people have also used it for work.
- Over a quarter of UK adults (26%) have used generative artificial intelligence (AI), including chatbots.
- Approximately 4 million people have used generative AI for work purposes.
- Adoption of generative AI surpasses that of voice-assisted speakers like Amazon's Alexa.
- Around 13 million people have used generative AI tools, with 10% using them daily.
- The rapid adoption of generative AI is unprecedented compared to other emerging technologies.
- Just over half of the UK population is aware of generative AI.
- Roughly 4 million people have used generative AI for work.
- ChatGPT gained popularity for its ability to produce human-like responses to various prompts.
- Concerns exist regarding the potential misuse of generative AI for large-scale disinformation campaigns.
- User interfaces, regulations, legal status, and accuracy of generative AI are still evolving.

Pay Rise Proposal and Funding

- The government has proposed pay rises between 5% - 7% for over a million public sector workers, including teachers, police, and doctors.
- Under these proposals, police and prison officers in England and Wales would receive a 7% pay rise, while teachers and junior doctors in England would get 6.5% and 6% respectively.
- Rishi Sunak indicated that funding the pay increases would necessitate focus on public sector worker pay and would involve choices but not cuts.
- Sunak also proposed that the government could raise over £1bn by significantly increasing charges for migrants applying for UK visas and the levy they pay to access the NHS.
- Pay rises for teachers and the police will take effect from September, while those for others, including doctors, dentists, and the police, will be backdated to April.

UK Economic Overview

- The UK economy has been stagnant, with minimal growth since 2019. It contracted by 0.1% in May due to factors such as an extra bank holiday for the King's Coronation and the rising cost of living.
- Current inflation rate is at 8.7%. The Bank of England has been raising interest rates to counter inflation, impacting consumer borrowing costs and leading to higher mortgage and loan repayments.
- Sectors like manufacturing, energy, construction, and hospitality have seen declines, but health and IT sectors have shown recovery.
- Chancellor Jeremy Hunt emphasized the need to lower inflation to spur economic growth and alleviate pressure on families.
- Despite the May contraction, GDP is projected to rise by around 0.1% in the three months to June, suggesting a slow but ongoing growth according to Capital Economics.
- Economists warn that the current state of the economy is "listless" and "weak," with Samuel Tombs from Pantheon Macroeconomics and Martin Beck from the EY Item Club highlighting the negligible growth since the end of 2019.

Quote of the Week

"It is a kind of economic law that a stagnant economy leads to social, political, and national decline." -- Ha-Joon Chang

Ha-Joon Chang is a distinguished South Korean economist and a professor at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. Known for his expertise in development economics and his skeptical views on neoliberal and free market policies, Chang has significantly contributed to the discourse on economic development and globalisation.





Legal Issues of Note

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen & Ors, R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for Business and Trade

- The High Court has ruled the Government legislation that permitted employers to use agency staff as replacements for striking workers during industrial action, introduced in 2022, as unlawful.
- This ruling followed judicial review proceedings initiated by UNISON and other TUC unions against the Secretary of State for Business and Trade's decision to make the 2022 Regulations.
- Since 1976, it has been illegal for an employment business to knowingly introduce or supply workers to an employer to perform the work of employees participating in official industrial action, made a criminal offense by Regulation 7 of the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003.
- The Government, in 2022, decided to revoke Regulation 7, which was previously kept unchanged after a public consultation in 2015, without further public consultation.

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen & Ors, R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for Business and Trade

- The challenge to the 2022 Regulations was based on two grounds:
 - Ground 1: The Secretary of State failed to fulfill his statutory duty under the 1973 Act to consult before making the Regulations.
 - Ground 2: The Secretary of State breached his duty under Article 11 of the ECHR to prevent unlawful interference with the rights of trade unions and their members.
- The High Court Judge upheld Ground 1, ruling the Secretary of State's decision as based on "precious little information" and deemed it "unfair", "irrational" and therefore "unlawful".
- The Judge did not express a view on Ground 2 as, with the success of Ground 1, the 2022 Regulations were quashed.
- The unions' victory was lauded by Christina McAnea, UNISON's general secretary, who argued that employers should focus on resolving disputes instead of escalating tensions by undermining staff with agency workers.

Somerset Council successfully prosecutes Taunton landlord for breaching housing laws

- Landlord fined £34,640 for failure to license eight properties
- Court rejects landlord's attempt to prevent council from inspecting property
- Council issues enforcement notices for property improvements
- Landlord ordered to pay council £6,000 for unsuccessful injunction
- Council aims to deter other landlords from breaching duties with strong enforcement actions

A hand in a dark suit jacket and white shirt cuff holds a black magnifying glass. The lens is focused on a large, glowing blue circle containing a white person icon. This central icon is part of a larger network of smaller, similar icons connected by thin white lines, all set against a light blue background with soft bokeh effects.

Lilith, The Mother of Monsters



Job Adverts

Ben Moreton, Director, Business Smart Solutions
0204 529 1139 / 07807058828 www.businesssmartsolutions.co.uk



Building Teams That Redefine Excellence

Empowering both clients and candidates to achieve their goals



Welcome to #TeamBSS

Your Public Sector Recruitment Partner

Expertise

Since we started back in 2018, we've been focused on public sector recruitment, and it's become our specialty! We're excited to bring our experience and know-how to the table when it comes to supporting public sector organisations by connecting them with amazing candidates.

Understanding the challenges

We truly "get" the unique needs and challenges faced by both clients and candidates in the public sector. This understanding allows us to provide solid support and guidance throughout the entire recruitment journey. Our expertise in handling the ins and outs of public sector hiring means that clients and candidates alike can trust us to make the right connections and contribute to the success of their organisations.

Matchmakers

Our agency is passionate about finding the perfect match between local government positions and top-notch professionals. We know that getting the right person for the job is crucial, and our expert recruiters go the extra mile to source and evaluate candidates who have the right mix of skills, experience, and personality to thrive in public sector roles.

Tailored solutions

We're all about offering customised solutions for both our clients and candidates. We understand that everyone has different needs, so we take the time to really listen and get to know what's important to each party. This way, we can create recruitment strategies that make everyone happy and lead to successful outcomes.



Revenues Officer (Capita One / Academy)

3 Months+ | £22.13 ph Umbrella | Remote

The Assignment

Our good client in London is seeking a fully remote Council Tax / Business Rates Officer to deal with collection and enforcement including writing letters, applying discounts/exemptions & setting up payment arrangements.

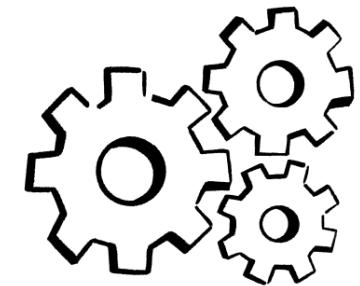
What we're looking for

We're looking for candidates who have 2 main skills/knowledge:

1. Must have Capita One (Academy) system experience
2. Must be experience and be experienced in all billing and recovery matters for Council Tax

To find out more or to apply

[>> Click here to visit the full advert](#)



Revenues Officer (Capita One / Academy)

3 Months+ | £22.41 ph Umbrella | Remote

The Assignment

This contract is for aged debt project to work on tracing, dealing with customers on the phone, negotiating payments, looking at alternative options such as attachment of earnings, benefits, bankruptcy, etc.

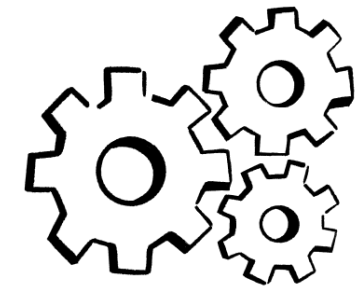
What we're looking for

We're looking for candidates who have 3 main skills/knowledge:

1. Must have Capita One (Academy) system experience
2. Must be experience and be experienced in all recovery matters for Council Tax
3. Able to recognise customers who can't pay from customers who won't pay

To find out more or to apply

[>> Click here to visit the full advert](#)



Benefits Assessor (Capita One / Academy)

3 Months+ | £22.41 ph Umbrella | Remote

The Assignment

Under the guidance of the Senior Benefit Assessor, to assess Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support in accordance with legislation, case law, and the working practices and procedures of the council to the required standards of accuracy and achieving agreed clearance times as laid out in the service plan.

To deal with customer enquiries by telephone, in person or on visit as required, and to support colleagues and partners in prioritising customer needs, and providing excellent customer care.

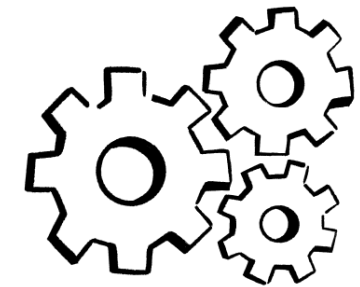
What we're looking for

We're looking for candidates who have 2 main skills/knowledge:

1. Must have Capita One (Academy) system experience
2. Must have recent experience in the role and be fully competent in all aspects of assessing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support

To find out more or to apply

[>> Click here to visit the full advert](#)



Benefits Assessor (Capita One / Academy)

3 Months+ | £30.77 ph Umbrella | Remote

The Assignment

As a Benefits Assessment Officer, you will play a pivotal role in maintaining and making decisions on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction awards for working age and pension age claims. Your daily tasks will involve processing new claims, CIC's, VEP's, ATLAS and HBAA reviews.

A key part of your role will be to assist customers with rent and/or council tax liabilities who are experiencing additional financial hardships by handling applications for discretionary help. Your work will be instrumental in ensuring our commitment to serving our community's most vulnerable members and facilitating their access to crucial services.

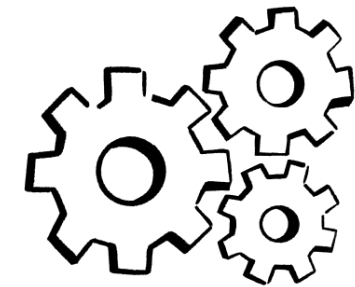
What we're looking for

We're looking for candidates who have 3 main skills/knowledge:

1. Must have Capita One (Academy) system experience
2. A minimum of 5+ years of Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support decision-making experience
3. Experience in conducting Discretionary Housing Payments and income & expenditure assessments

To find out more or to apply

[>> Click here to visit the full advert](#)





Partner with #TeamBSS, achieve together

Visit: www.businesssmartsolutions.co.uk





Other Information

Government Changes

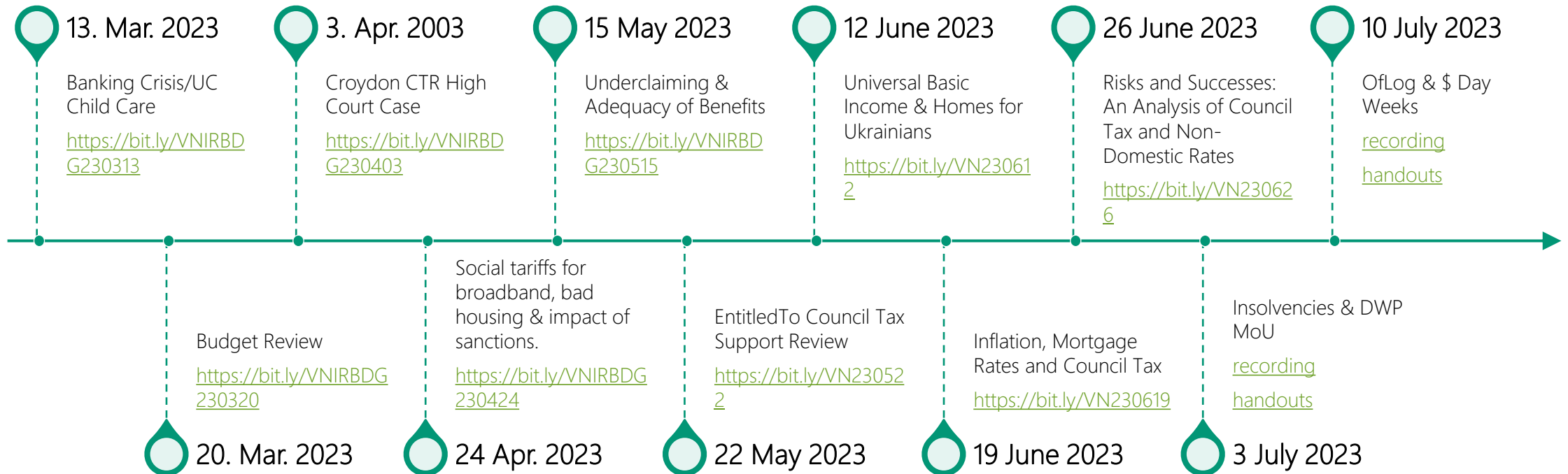
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has been replaced by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).



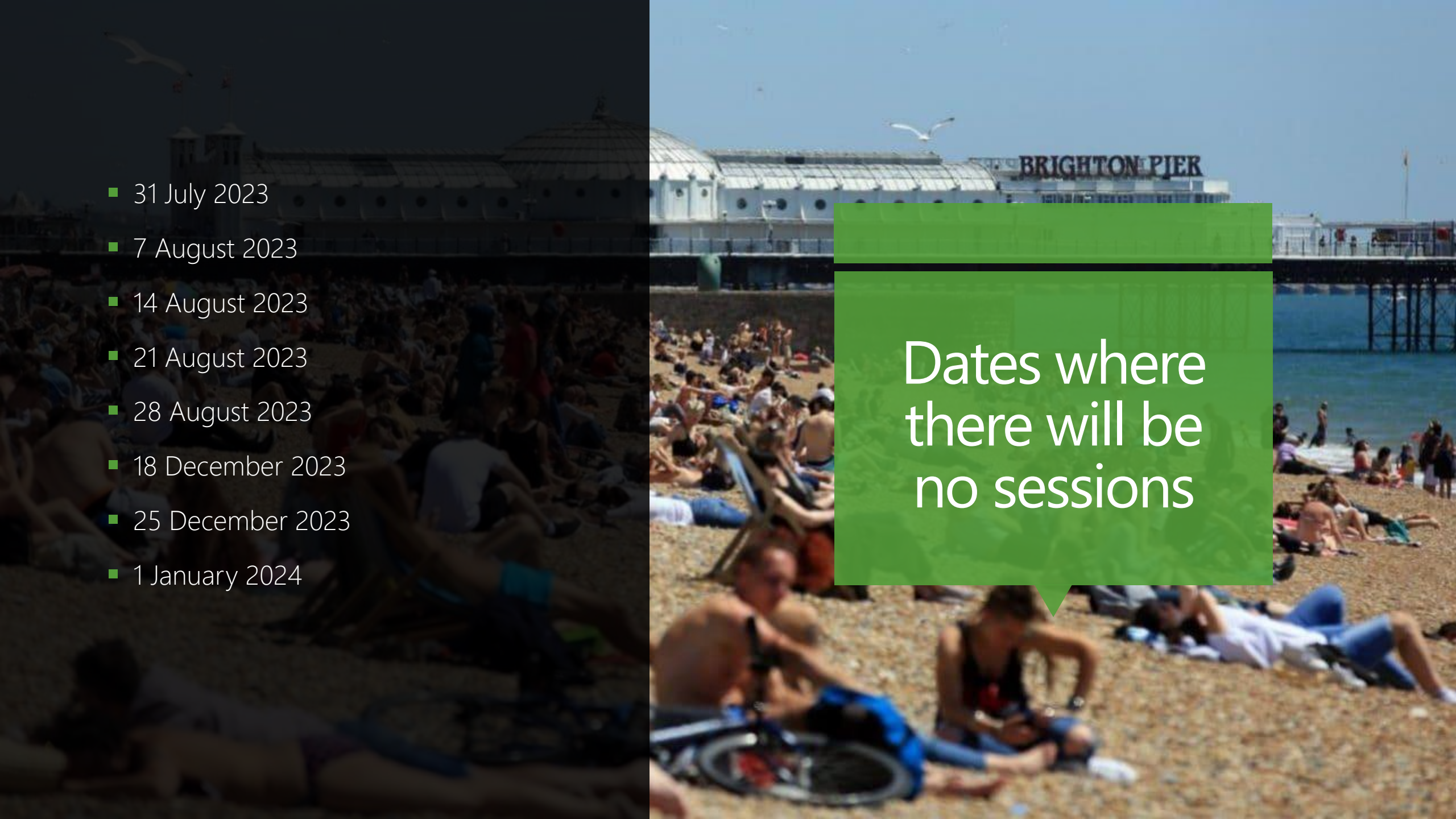
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Previous Recordings



- 31 July 2023
- 7 August 2023
- 14 August 2023
- 21 August 2023
- 28 August 2023
- 18 December 2023
- 25 December 2023
- 1 January 2024

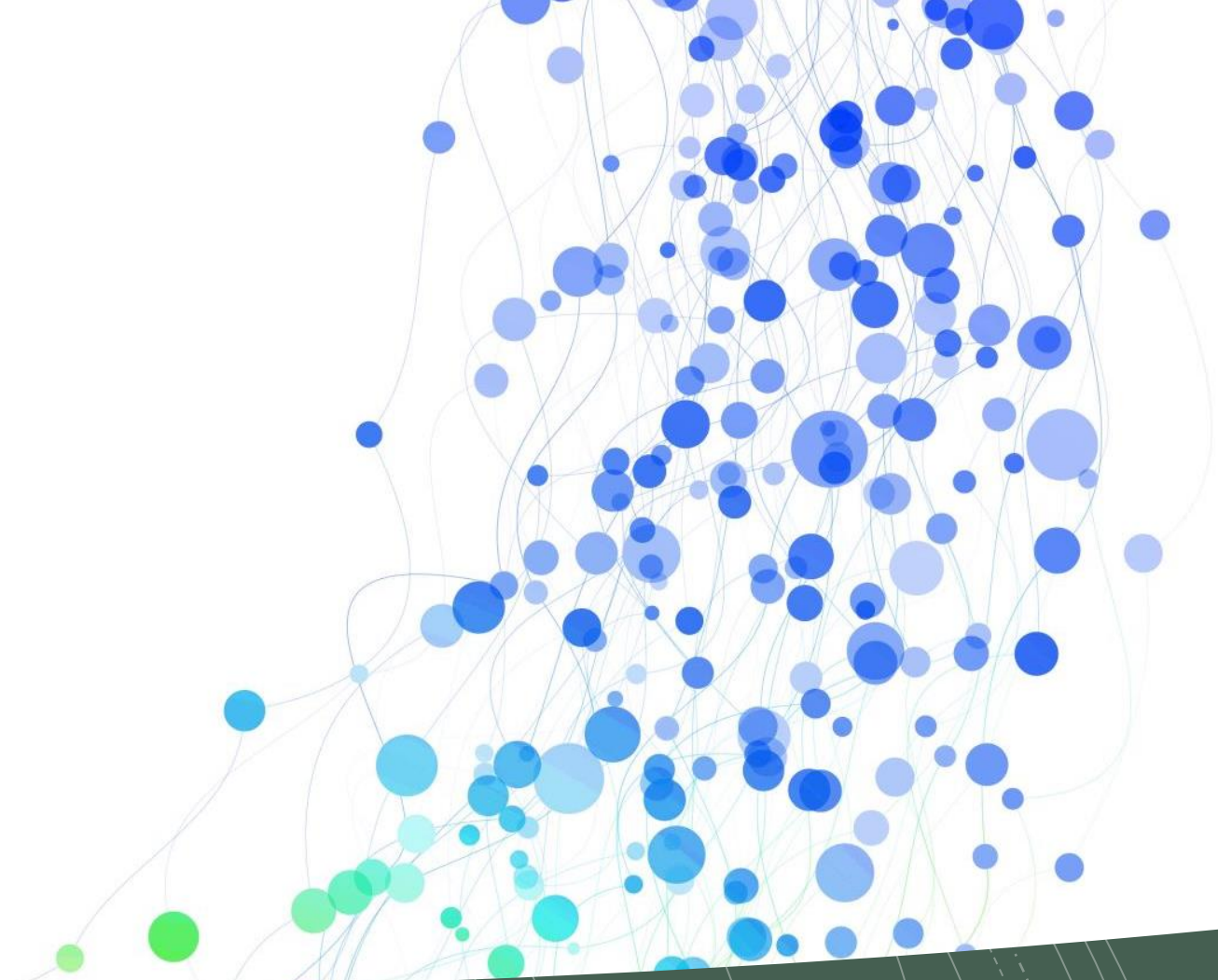
A composite image featuring a dark, semi-transparent overlay on the left side containing a list of dates. The background is a bright, sunny beach scene with many people sunbathing on a pebbly shore. In the distance, the Brighton Pier is visible with its characteristic white structure and a sign that reads 'BRIGHTON PIER'. The sky is clear blue with a few seagulls flying. A large green speech bubble with white text is positioned in the center-right of the image.

Dates where
there will be
no sessions

Impact assessment calculator



- Help for policy officials to calculate figures for impact assessments.
 - From: Department for Business and Trade and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
- https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F1150244%2Fimpact-assessment-calculator-april-2023.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK



Other Workshops

Two-day Specified Accommodation and Service Charges Training Course Online

- Fourth Date Added: 5-6 December 2023
 - Previous Dates: Sold out within days (11-12 October, 8-9 November, 21-22 November)
 - Course Overview:
 - Complex areas of decision making for HB officers
 - Subjectivity and caselaw references
 - Minimum two-day duration with workshops and case studies
 - Cost:
 - Members: £320 + VAT per person
 - Non-members: £400 + VAT per person
 - Limited availability, first come first served basis
 - Bookings confirmed upon receipt of the purchase order
 - In-house courses also available (online or face-to-face on-site delivery)
 - Contact Julia Papoutsis (julia.papoutsis@ladirectories.com) for booking form and content list
 - Contact Kim Larkin (kim.larkin@ladirectories.com) for in-house course details
 - 2023 dates for in-house courses almost sold out
- Course Objectives:
 - Principles of decision making in complex legislation
 - Caselaw considerations for subjective decisions
 - Understanding different types of specified accommodation
 - Legal definitions and step-by-step approach
 - Landlord condition and specified accommodation interactions
 - Eligible rent calculation and rent officer referrals
 - Service charges: definitions, eligibility, and management
 - Housing management, excessive service costs, and evidence requirements

Supported Accommodation

- **A Directories Ltd** is very pleased to announce that we will be holding a one-day conference on 31 October 2023, dedicated solely to Supported Accommodation, with the emphasis being on Exempt Accommodation.
 - We will be looking at, amongst other things, the progress of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill, which is today 29 June 2023 about to receive Royal Assent and become an Act of Parliament.
 - It is our hope that we will be privileged with the presence of some very distinguished speakers on the day.
 - The conference will be held online, two people from each LA that are members of **The Benefits Directory (TBD)** as of 1st October 2023, will be able to attend FREE of charge.
 - Invitations to this event will be sent to the two people from each member LA that registered with us in May 23 as regular attendees of the Exempt Accommodation Discussion Group meetings.
 - For those members that did not respond to the request for the names of two people, we will still send an invitation to two people chosen by us from the Newsletter distribution list.
 - Please do not email any requests for invitations, there will be opportunity for the invitation to be forwarded where the person is unable to attend on that day.
 - Invitations will also go to a few selected non-members who have contributed to our group in the past or are showing a current interest in becoming a member of **TBD**.
 - The agenda for the day is being finalised over the coming weeks after which the invitations will be sent with a copy of the day's agenda.
- Exempt Accommodation Discussion Group Panel
 - I am delighted to announce that Jayne Brown from East Kent Services and Dan Hill from Medway Council have kindly volunteered as panel members to the discussion group.
 - I had a very productive meeting with them both yesterday, they are full of exciting ideas for the future of these meetings as well as being able to facilitate introductions to some very key people!
 - Our group has also sparked the interest of the DWP and of DLUHC!

JULY

10th July



BCS Practitioner Certificate in
Data Protection

was £2,050, now £1,537.50

18th July



Managing Privacy by Design in
Modern Technology

was £395, now £296.25

SEPTEMBER



12th September



BCS Foundation Certificate in
Data Protection

£1,095

12th September



Foundation Certificate in
Freedom of Information

£395

13th September



Managing CCTV and
Data Protection

£395

18th September



BCS Practitioner Certificate in
Data Protection

£2,050

26th September



Caldicott Guardian
Course

£300

26th September



Handling Data
Subject Access Requests

£395

27th September



Data Champion
Training

£395

28th September



BCS Practitioner Certificate in
Freedom of Information

£1,800

28th September



Senior Information
Risk Owner

£300

<https://www.dataprivacyadvisory.com/dpas-training/>

OCTOBER

10th October



The Effective
DPO

£995

17th October



Auditing Data Protection
Compliance

£395

NOVEMBER

7th November



BCS Foundation Certificate
in Data Protection

£1,095

20th November



BCS Practitioner Certificate
in Data Protection

£2,050

14th November



Data Sharing in the
Public Sector

£395

21st November



Caldicott Guardian
Course

£300

23rd November



Senior Information
Risk Owner

£300

15th November



Managing CCTV and
Data Protection

£395

21st November



Handling Data Subject
Access Requests

£395

DECEMBER

5th December



Data Champion
Training

£395

<https://www.dataprivacyadvisory.com/dpas-training/>

Get 20% off any course with code **200FF!**

Autumn Season 2023: Monthly series of focused Workshops

Thursday 21 Sept – ChatGPT & AI

Join us for an exciting workshop on ChatGPT and AI! In this workshop, you will get a chance to learn about the latest advancements in AI technology and how it is disrupting the world in which we live. We will look at ChatGPT, a cutting-edge language model trained by OpenAI, we will look at working with AI tools and techniques. And the issues that arises from such tools. Make no mistake these tools are going to have an impact whether that is for good or ill, and they are going to make an impact soon.

Thursday 19 Oct – Social Prescribing

Social prescribing is a healthcare approach that involves linking patients with non-medical resources and services to improve their overall well-being. This session will look at SP in depth and understand how and why Revenues and Benefits could have synergies with local prescribers and SP stakeholders.

Thursday 23 Nov – 15 Minute Cities

The concept of 15-minute cities has gained popularity in recent years as a way to promote sustainable and liveable urban environments. Cities such as Paris and Melbourne have already begun implementing 15-minute city initiatives, and the concept is gaining traction globally as urban planners seek to create more equitable and accessible cities for all residents. In the UK Oxford City has the most developed plan, Birmingham, canterbury, Sheffield and Ipswich at not far behind. This has quite a wide impact on communities, especially vulnerable households. Not only does it speak to health, transport but also to the wider demands of Government departments, such the DWP policy of expecting people to apply for jobs within a 90 min travel time. Not mention LAs own staff.

[Click here to register](#)



Visionary Network



- Visionary Network is a not for profit organisation, whose objective is to encourage thought leadership and good practice in the field of public service.
- We are independent and will draw on views, ideas and practices from any practitioner and/or organisation committed to public service.
- We encourage debate, and the fair exchange of ideas, viewpoints and philosophies.
- Any products we do produce will be for the betterment of society, public sector led and if costed will reflect our not for profit values.
- Our focus is on improving the knowledge, health, environment and lives of our citizens through better administration and access to services.

A nonprofit organization is a type of organization that is formed for a specific social or charitable purpose rather than for profit. Its primary goal is to serve the needs of a particular community, cause, or interest, and any profits or revenue generated are reinvested back into the organization to further its mission, rather than being distributed as profits to owners or shareholders.