



Child maintenance: changes to the Child Support Agency case closure programme's transition period

Consultation Response

November 2017

Contents

Introduction..... 3

Responses to the consultation..... 3

Conclusions..... 3

Introduction

On 3 August 2017 the Department for Work and Pensions launched an external consultation on our proposal to change the date by which all liabilities in existing Child Support Agency (CSA) cases must be ended from 31 December 2017 to 31 December 2018. This is known as the 'transition period end date' which is set out in the 'Child support scheme for timing and related matters in relation to ending liability in existing cases' ('the ending liability scheme').

The consultation document can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-child-support-agency-case-closure-programme>

The consultation closed on 14 September 2017.

Responses to the consultation

During the consultation period we received four comments, all from private individuals.

One of the respondents objected to the process of revisiting, stabilising and transferring to the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) the debt balances of CSA cases after liability has been ended. They were critical of the proposal to extend the Transition Period End Date on the basis that the whole process of case closure should be halted, and an alternative approach to dealing with historic CSA debt should be taken.

While these objections have been noted, the approach taken to CSA debt is outside of this proposal, which is only focussed on the process of ending liabilities in CSA cases and not how historic CSA debt will be handled.

The remaining three responses were questions specific to individual cases, rather than the comments on the proposal itself. These have been forwarded to be addressed through the proper procedures.

Conclusions

Having considered the responses received we have decided to proceed with the proposed change. A link to the amended and signed version of the ending liability scheme was published alongside this document. The changes came into effect on 26 October 2017.