323,700 tax credits customers have one month left to renew

323,700 customers are yet to renew their tax credits ahead of the deadline, with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) reminding them to do so by 31 July - or their payments will stop.

Tax credits help working families with targeted financial support — so it's important that customers renew before the deadline to ensure they don't miss out on money they're entitled to.

Renewing online is quick and easy. Customers can log into GOV.UK to check on the progress of their renewal, be reassured it's being processed and know when they'll hear back from HMRC.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

There's just one month to go for our tax credits customers to renew. It's easy to do online or on the HMRC app — search 'tax credits' on GOV.UK.

Customers choosing to use the HMRC app on their smartphone can:

- renew their tax credits
- make changes to their claim
- check their tax credits payments schedule, and
- find out how much they have earned for the year

HMRC has released a video to explain how tax credits customers can use the HMRC app to view, manage and update their details.

How do I use the HMRC app to manage my tax credits?

If there is a change in a customer's circumstances that could affect their tax credits claims, they must <u>report the changes to HMRC</u>. Circumstances that could affect tax credits payments include changes to:

- living arrangements
- childcare
- working hours, or
- income (increase or decrease)

The UK Government has recently announced a Cost of Living Payment of £650, payable in two separate lump sums of £326 and £324, for households receiving certain benefits or tax credits, to help with the cost of living. If tax credits only, they are eligible for each payment. HMRC will contact them and issue payments automatically, with the first being made by the autumn. Customers do not need to contact HMRC or apply for the payment.

Tax credits are ending and will be replaced by Universal Credit by the end of 2024. Many customers who move from tax credits to Universal Credit could be financially better off and can use an <u>independent benefits calculator</u> to check. If customers choose to apply sooner, it is important to get independent advice beforehand as they will not be able to go back to tax credits or any other benefits that Universal Credit replaces.

HMRC is urging customers never to share their HMRC login details. Someone using them could steal from the customer or make a fraudulent claim in their name. HMRC is also warning people that if someone contacts them saying that they are from HMRC and wants the customer to transfer money urgently or give personal information, they should never let themselves be rushed. The department urges people to take their time and check HMRC's advice about scams on GOV.UK.

Find out more about <u>renewing tax credits claims</u>.

Customers can download the HMRC app for free from their smartphone app store.

Find out more about <u>Universal Credit replacing tax credits</u>.

To sign into HMRC's tax credits service for the first time you'll need to prove your identity using 2 evidence sources. You can find the full list and how to <u>manage your tax credits</u> on GOV.UK.