

Press release: New parents could miss out on almost £500 from their tax credits

Thousands of parents could be at risk of missing out on hundreds of pounds from their tax credits by accidentally reporting their income incorrectly.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is urging parents to check their income to avoid potentially missing out on an average of £495 a year. Many tax credits claimants who receive statutory maternity pay do not realise that some of this pay should be deducted from their gross pay when their tax credits awards are calculated.

As well as maternity pay, parents can deduct any payments they have received for statutory paternity, shared parental or adoption pay up to a value of £100 a week.

HMRC estimates that parents who did not deduct their statutory maternity pay from their income could have been entitled to on average an extra £495 across the year. Around 35,000 people could potentially be missing out. [A full list of what can be deducted is available on GOV.UK.](#)

Parents need to make sure they renew their claim before the 31 July deadline for tax credits renewals.

Tax credits help working families with targeted support and more than 65,000 customers this year have already used the app to renew their tax credits, compared to 38,411 customers in 2017.

All online customers can now log into GOV.UK to check the progress of their renewal so they can be reassured it's being worked on and know when they'll hear back from HMRC.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

We want to make sure all our customers get all the help they're entitled to when they renew their tax credits.

As the 31 July deadline for tax credits renewals approaches, we want to ensure nobody misses out. That's why we're urging parents to make sure they remember to deduct payments for statutory maternity pay, paternity pay, and adoption pay.

Online help and information on renewing tax credits is available on [GOV.UK](#) and via HMRC's customer service Twitter feed [@HMRCcustomers](#). Support is also available on the tax credits helpline.

Further information

1. The deadline for people to renew their tax credits is 31 July 2018. Failure to renew before the deadline will mean payments are stopped and customers may have to repay the money they have received since April.
2. This only applies to current awards. HMRC is unable to adjust finalised awards made in previous years.
3. Claimants can get help and information on renewing tax credits:
4. Follow HMRC's Press Office on [Twitter](#)
5. [HMRC's Flickr channel](#)