

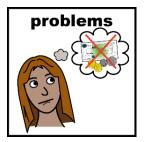
# Are you worried about money or about being in debt?



There may be lots of reasons why you are worried about money. You may suddenly have no money, be in debt, owe money, or you have to choose to spend money on food or heating or paying bills. Or you may be waiting on benefits payments.



Here is some information on the ways to contact people for help and advice with your money problems if you live in Orkney.



#### **Crisis Grant**

If you are experiencing a crisis or disaster and you have difficulties coping with unexpected expenses, you may be able to get a Crisis Grant.

Contact Scottish Welfare Fund or Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau



#### **Scottish Welfare Fund**

Email - swf@orkney.gov.uk

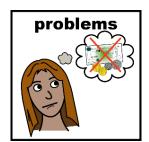
Website – www.orkney.gov.uk/our-services/council-tax-and-benefits/scottish-welfare-fund/



#### **Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau**

Phone - 01856 875 266

Email – bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk Website – www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/CAB



# Making your money go further

Anyone who is worried about money can get a free benefit check. This will make sure you are getting the right amount of money and get advice on other ways to save money. For example, cheaper gas or electricity or free school meals.

# **Contact Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau**



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#### **Debt advice**

If you are in debt or owe money, you can get help and advice about ways to pay off your debts each month.

# **Contact Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau**



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#### **Benefit help**

If you have made a new claim for benefits you might be able to get money in advance to pay for things like rent or food. This money is a loan and must be paid be back. It will be taken from your benefits once they start, so make sure you talk to someone before you ask for an advance benefit payment.

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# Hardship payment

If you have had money stopped from your benefits, you may be able to get a hardship payment from the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions). These payments are not made straight away and not everyone will be able to get one.

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If you get a hardship payment for Universal Credit you will need to pay this money back.

If you get a hardship payment for Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment support allowance, you **do not need** to pay this money back.



# Challenge a decision

You can challenge a decision about your benefits. This may be because they have been stopped or reduced. Or you have been refused benefits or told you have been overpaid. You will have to make this challenge within one month.

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#### **Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau**

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Website – www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/CAB



# You may be eligible for support from Social Security Scotland

Contact - Social Security Scotland

Phone - 0800 182 2222

Website - mygov.scot/benefits



# To help keep up with rent payments

Contact – Discretionary Housing Payment Phone – 01856 873 535 (extension 2116)

Email – benefits@orkney.gov.uk

Website – www.bit.ly/orkneydhp



#### To report a scam

Contact – Orkney Trading Standards

Phone - 01856 873 535

Email – trading.standards@orkney.gov.uk



#### To report a scam

Contact - Police Scotland

Phone – Call 101 or drop into the Kirkwall Police Station



# For information on energy costs and energy efficiency

Contact – THAW Orkney

Phone - 01856 878 388

Email – info@thaworkney.co.uk

Website – www.thaworkney.co.uk



# For support with mental health difficulties including depression and anxiety

Contact - Orkney Blide Trust

Phone - 01856 874 874

Website – www.blidetrust.org.uk



#### For mental health support

Contact – Breathing Space

Phone - 0800 83 85 87

Website – www.breathingspace.scot



# For information on benefits and grants

Contact - Turn2us

Website – www.turn2us.org.uk



#### For energy efficiency advice to help save on bills

Contact – Home Energy Scotland

Phone - 0808 808 2282

Website – www.homeenergyscotland.org



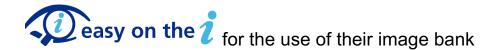
#### For housing advice

Contact - Shelter

Phone - 0808 800 4444

Website - scotland.shelter.org.uk

#### With thanks to





Exclusively Inclusive for making this information in Easy Read

Adapted from the Craven Easy Read leaflet by the Independent Food Aid Network

This leaflet is based on learning from Scotland's A Menu for Change project and has been developed with support from the organisations at the top of this leaflet. You can access the Worrying about Money leaflets at <a href="https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets">www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets</a>. This information was last updated on 14/05/2025.