THE DIGEST / UK CONSUMER UPDATES

Your practical digest

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Useful updates for life in the UK, explained with practical steps and links to the original sources.

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Information can change after publication. Check the linked source before acting. This digest is general information, not personal financial or legal advice.

01 / MONEY

Backdated disability benefit: how to ask HMRC for extra tax credits

Source: 2026-10-06 | Checked: 2026-10-09

HMRC may pay extra tax credits for a past period if your disability benefit decision was backdated. You must meet the TC956 conditions and apply within one month of being told about the qualifying award or increased rate.

Who it affects

For people who claimed tax credits during the period covered by a backdated disability-benefit decision.

How to ask HMRC for the backdated increase

1. Find your disability benefit decision letter. Note when you were told and check that its backdated period overlaps a period when you claimed tax credits.

2. On the HMRC page below, open helpsheet TC956 under 'Before you start' and check its conditions.

3. Under 'How to apply', choose TC-DB1 for an adult Working Tax Credit decision or TC-DB2 for a child Child Tax Credit decision.

4. Download the PDF and open it on a computer with the latest free Adobe Reader. HMRC says browser viewing may fail. Fill it in on-screen and save it.

5. In the form, find 'What you need to do now'. Email the saved form to the HMRC address there within one month of being told you qualify or the benefit rate increased.

6. HMRC will check the claim and phone or write with the result and how any payment will be made.

What this means for you

HMRC may pay extra tax credits for a past period if your disability benefit decision was backdated. You must meet the TC956 conditions and apply within one month of being told about the qualifying award or increased rate.

Check before acting

The one-month deadline runs from when you were told about the qualifying decision or increased rate. The GOV.UK page has an accessible-format contact.

Original sources

Apply for an increase in tax credits for a backdated disability benefit decision: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-increase-in-tax-credits-for-a-backdated-disability-benefit-decision

Read HMRC helpsheet TC956: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tax-credits-disability-helpsheet-tc956

02 / MONEY

Google Maps now shows nearby petrol and diesel prices in the UK

Source: 2026-10-08 | Checked: 2026-10-10

Near-real-time petrol and diesel prices are now displayed in Google Maps for forecourts nearby. The announcement says Fuel Finder data covers around 99% of all fuel sold on UK roads; prices are described as near-real-time, not guaranteed to be current at the pump.

Who it affects

UK drivers using Google Maps to look for nearby forecourts.

How to compare fuel prices

1. Open Google Maps and search for a nearby petrol station or forecourt.

2. Open nearby station listings and look at the displayed petrol or diesel prices. Compare several stations before deciding where to fill up.

3. The prices are described as near real time, so confirm the actual pump price when you arrive. Consider any extra travel when judging whether a cheaper listing saves you money.

4. If a station has no visible price in Maps, the official announcement also names Waze, Petrol Prices, the AA, Confused.com and RAC Fuel Watch as services using Fuel Finder data. Check a listing there before relying on it.

What this means for you

Comparing nearby forecourts may help you spend less on fuel. Check the pump price before filling up and consider whether extra travel would outweigh the saving.

Check before acting

Prices are described as near real time and may change. Confirm the price at the pump; a cheaper forecourt does not guarantee a saving after travel costs.

Original sources

Drivers set to save as petrol prices launch on Google Maps: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/drivers-set-to-save-as-petrol-prices-launch-on-google-maps

03 / GOVERNMENT

Rossendale Youth Hub offers work and housing support for 16 to 24-year-olds

Source: 2026-10-05 | Checked: 2026-10-10

Rossendale Borough Council says its Youth Hub programme for 16 to 24-year-olds runs at Futures Park, Bacup, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm. The council describes the Adrenaline Centre service as a separate Resilience Hub.

Who it affects

Young people aged 16 to 24 in the Rossendale area.

How to find Rossendale Youth Hub support

1. If you are 16 to 24 and want help with work, training or wellbeing, read the council's Youth Hub page below. It lists CV writing, job applications, budgeting, housing awareness and other support.

2. The council says the 12-week development programme runs Wednesday and Thursday, 10am to 3pm, at The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB.

3. The council page does not explain whether you need to book. Before travelling, call its customer service hub on 01706 217777 to confirm entry arrangements, the current programme and accessibility needs.

4. Tell the team which support you want: for example CV and job applications, skills, budgeting or housing awareness. Ask how to join the programme and what to bring.

What this means for you

If you are aged 16 to 24 in Rossendale, contact the council before travelling to confirm how to join, current opening times and accessibility arrangements. The Youth Hub and the separate Resilience Hub offer different services.

Check before acting

The DWP announcement also mentions Monday at the Adrenaline Centre, but the council calls that a separate Resilience Hub. Confirm the right service with the council before a Monday visit.

Original sources

Major boost for young people in Rossendale as Youth Hub opens to support them towards work: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-boost-for-young-people-in-rossendale-as-youth-hub-opens-to-support-them-towards-work

Read Rossendale Council's Youth Hub page: https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/news/article/10837/new-youth-hub-launches-in-rossendale

https://www.rotherdale.gov.uk/council/contact-us