

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE
(SSIN)**

Arrangements for students funded under the
Education (Student Support) Regulations

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES (DSAs)

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in institutions of higher education, further education or specialist colleges providing HE, and alternative providers;

DSA assessors, assessment centres and suppliers;

Student Finance advisors, and

The Student Loans Company

**SSIN 09/20
August 2020**

Dear Colleagues

Assessment Centres – lifting of moratorium

This SSIN confirms the lifting of the moratorium on applications for new assessment centres that was put in place by DSA-QAG in July 2019. The new arrangements are set out below.

We do not wish to restrict the provision of Needs Assessments unnecessarily, and so have lifted this moratorium with immediate effect. This means that it is now possible for existing Needs Assessment providers to open new branches or outreach centres, and for new providers to register to provide DSA Needs Assessments.

Existing Needs Assessment providers who wish to open new branches or outreach centres should contact DfE at disabled.studentallowances@education.gov.uk to discuss their plans.

Those individuals or organisations wishing to register as a new Needs Assessment provider should be aware that the Student Loans Company (SLC) are intending to tender for a contract to provide all Student Finance England funded students with a DSAs Needs Assessment in the near future. This means that the current system will continue to operate for only a relatively short period of time. Anyone wishing to register as a new Needs Assessment provider should contact DfE at disabled.studentallowances@education.gov.uk for further advice.

As outlined in SSIN 08/19¹, we continue to expect all Needs Assessment providers to adhere to the key principles and standards underlying the Quality

¹ <https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1760/dsa-qag-closure-information-ssin-08-19.pdf>

Assurance Framework for Assessment Centres previously operated by DSA-QAG.

We have received a number of queries about existing providers moving location. For clarity, existing assessment centre providers who wish to change the location of one or more of their assessment centres or outreach centres are permitted to do so. Providers in this position should notify SLC at dsa_requests@slc.co.uk so that SLC's records, and the assessment centre postcode search facility², can be updated. Existing assessment centre providers who wish to change other administrative details should also contact SLC at dsa_requests@slc.co.uk.

We hope this information is helpful.

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Department
for Education

² <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-assessment-centre>