

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE
(SSIN)**

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

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA)

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in higher education providers;
DSA assessors, assessment centres and suppliers;
Student Finance advisors, and
The Student Loans Company

**SSIN 04/21
July 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) – arrangements for remote non-medical help sessions and remote needs assessments going forwards

A number of changes have been made to elements of DSA as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, particularly with regard to remote provision of needs assessments and non-medical help (NMH).

This SSIN confirms that going forwards, the following key principles for the provision of needs assessments and NMH will apply:

- Students will continue to be able to choose a remote needs assessment if they wish without the need for any prior authorisation by SLC. All assessment and outreach centres should be able to provide either remote or face to face needs assessments, as the student chooses.
- Students will continue to be able to choose to have NMH sessions remotely if they wish without the need for any prior authorisation by SLC. All NMH providers should be able to provide remote or face to face NMH sessions, or a mixture of the two, as the student chooses. This means that NMH providers should ensure that for every student they take on, they are able to provide face to face as well as remote support should the student wish. It is important for NMH providers to ensure that their entry on the NMH register¹ of the regions in which they operate is kept up to date; any changes can be made by contacting SLC at dsa_requests@slc.co.uk.

¹ Available at [Guidance for NMH Suppliers \(slc.co.uk\)](https://www.slco.co.uk/guidance-for-nmh-suppliers).

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