

**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 05/22
April 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) – update to exemptions for non-medical help providers from the policy requirement to provide remote or face-to-face NMH sessions, or a mixture of the two, as the student chooses.

SSIN 07/21 (<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1887/ssin-0721-new-arrangements-for-remote-support-202122.pdf>) set out the following policy regarding the arrangements for remote and face-to-face needs assessments and non-medical help (NMH) sessions:

- All assessment and outreach centres should be able to provide either remote or face-to-face needs assessments, as the student chooses.
- 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.

SSIN 09/21 ([update-on-arrangements-for-remote-support ssin december-2021 final.pdf \(slc.co.uk\)](#)) confirmed that DfE had agreed an exemption to this policy for NMH sole traders who have received specific clinical advice from a medical professional not to engage in face-to-face work for reasons relating to Covid-19.

By this SSIN, DfE confirms that any NMH sole trader who has a disability (within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 and confirmed by a medical professional), which means that they are unable to engage in face-to-face work, may be exempted from the obligation set out in SSIN 07/21. This exemption will mean that a sole trader can be registered as offering remote-only support. Any sole trader who wishes to apply for this exemption should contact the Disabled Students' Allowance team at DfE on

disabled.studentallowances@education.gov.uk for further details. Please write 'NMH Sole Trader Exemption request' in the subject box.

Any queries about this SSIN can be addressed to the Disabled Students' Allowance team at DfE on disabled.studentallowances@education.gov.uk.

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