

Labour Market Conditions Guide (extract for Lone Parents)

Availability and Actively Seeking Employment

Restrictions for Lone Parents

1. From 26 April 2010, in addition to being able to restrict their availability as a claimant with caring responsibilities for a child, a Lone Parent who has a child aged 12 or under, has the **right** to restrict their availability for work to school hours if they wish.
2. This right is restricted to normal school hours, for example 9am to 3.15pm subject to a minimum of 16 hours per week.
3. Where a Lone Parent restricts their availability to school hours, they do not have to show they have reasonable prospects of getting a job.
4. If a Lone Parent has more than one child aged 12 or under, they can restrict their availability in line with the school hours of all of their children.

Example

5. A Lone Parent has two children, Oliver aged 8 and Lauren aged 11.
6. Oliver attends school 8.45am to 3pm, while Lauren attends school 9am to 3.15pm.
7. The Lone Parent can restrict their availability in line with a combination of their children's school hours: 9am to 3pm.
8. Advisers should make all eligible Lone Parents aware of this right.
9. The provision whereby a Lone Parent can choose to restrict their availability to school hours only applies to term time. If a Lone Parent wants to restrict their availability during the school holidays they will have to meet the criteria of a claimant who has caring responsibilities for a child.