

Labour Market Conditions Guide (extract)

Restrictions for Claimants with caring responsibilities for a child

1. A claimant with caring responsibilities for a child can restrict their availability for employment to less than 40 hours per week, providing that:
 - they are available for work for as many hours as their caring responsibilities allow; **and**
 - they have reasonable prospects of securing employment; **and**
 - they are available for at least 16 hours per week.
2. In a small number of areas, there may be few or no jobs available which would fit within the restricted patterns of employment sought.
3. To accommodate such a situation, where the Adviser agrees that no suitable jobs are likely to be found, claimants with caring responsibilities for a child can restrict their hours to as many as their caring responsibilities allow, subject to a minimum of 16 hours per week, regardless of whether they can show reasonable prospects or not.
4. The claimant's circumstances will be reviewed regularly.
5. Claimants who have additional caring responsibilities for a child because they have an outstanding parenting order in England, Wales & Scotland or a parenting contract in England or Wales agreed or issued after exclusion, truancy or misbehaviour at school, can restrict their availability for work providing the restrictions are reasonable in light of the order/contract.
6. These circumstances will be considered good cause for not attending the office during this period. In these circumstances, where the claimant is required to care for a child, Advisers will consider treating the claimant as available for work to safeguard the parent from being disallowed JSA and attendance can be excused for this period.