

## Interface overview

The purpose of this summary is to provide a high level overview of the various interfaces between the Child Maintenance Group (CMG) and her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Credit Reference Agency (CRA). This overview does not stand alone and should be read alongside the individual detailed interface procedures.

### Benefit interfaces

In most cases where the paying parent is in receipt of a prescribed benefit, they are administered by Jobcentre Plus (JCP) systems. To support this, a fully automated interface via the Customer Information Service (CIS) is in place to ensure deductions for the standard flat rate maintenance from income support, income based jobseekers allowance (JSA), and income based employment support allowance (ESA) are taken as quickly as possible. This involves setting an interest on CIS after the maintenance calculation is made, so that JCP can access the interest and make a decision on whether or not to take deductions when a paying parent is in receipt of a JCP benefit.

Deductions of a non standard flat rate and deductions from JSA contributions, ESA contributions and Pension Credit are supported by an interface from the CMG to JCP. You are required to complete a small amount of work to trigger the deduction from benefit (DFB) request.

There is also a non automated interface, to support benefits that are not administered by the income support computer system (ISCS) or JSAPS. When dealing with a paying parent in receipt of any of these benefits you set up the deduction from benefit (DFB) in the same way, however the system does automatically complete the necessary form, which can be printed locally and sent to the relevant benefit office, via internal courier.

### HMRC interfaces

Child benefit (CHB) is automatically checked through the interface in the application stage of a case, to see if it's in payment for a qualifying child (QC). A small amount of system work is required when checking CHB is in payment for a relevant other child (ROC) and child supported in family based arrangement (CIFBA).


Every month the CMG system sends details of all QCs in a case to HMRC, where there is one QC who is aged 16 years or older. This checks that child benefit is still in payment, to avoid overpayments and refunds.

Interfaces with HMRC are also used in relation to paying parent's, to trace them via their employer when all other trace methods have been exhausted. It is used during the application stage to get the employment status and a summary income figure for the paying parent's initial assessment. A breakdown can be provided when this figure is challenged. An annual update of the figure is also automatically provided, via the interface.

When a variation request has been accepted on the grounds of unearned income, by way of preliminary investigations, an interface provides details of any unearned income that the paying parent has reported and provides annual updates of that figure for as long as the variation remains in place.

You can use this interface when setting up a DEO or deduction from earnings request (DER). As soon as the method of payment from (MOPF) is changed to DEO or DER, HMRC automatically send the paying parent's employer details, including name, address and telephone number.

Once a DEO is in place for a paying parent the system regularly checks that employment details have not changed and alerts you when they do change.

 This procedure uses the terms receiving parent and paying parent.

The receiving parent is the parent who receives or who is expected to receive child maintenance, known as the parent with care (PWC) or person with care (PeWC) on the system and in legislation. The paying parent is the parent who pays or who is expected to pay child maintenance, known as the non resident parent (NRP) on the system and in legislation.

[CES - View Benefit Info](#)

[CIS - Get Benefit Award Information](#)

[CIS - Receive Broadcast Updates](#)

[CIS - Receive Changes To Benefit Information](#)

[CIS - Register/Deregister Interest](#)

[CIS - Retrieve Personal Data From](#)

[CIS - Send Update](#)

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- [Deduction Decision \(Non Automated\) - Receive](#)
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- [HMRC - Employment Details DEO/DER](#)
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- [HMRC - Request CHB End Date](#)
- [HMRC - Summary Of Earned Income](#)
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- [HMRC - Verify Receiving Parent Receiving CHB](#)
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