

**“Just one click and NAWRA goes Zoom”**

**Benefits advice in a coronavirus world - a special virtual conference**

**Friday 15 May 2020**

**AGENDA**

**09:00 Preparation**

Follow the link that was provided when you booked your place. You can join from any internet enabled device (although phones can have limited functions). There is no need to download any additional software - just use your usual web browser. Try out your set-up at <https://zoom.us/test>

If you are happy with your set-up, please click on the event link (in the booking confirmation) to join the main event which will start at 09.30 prompt!

**09:30 Welcome and Introduction**

Alan Markey (NAWRA Chair, Coventry Independent Advice Service) will welcome participants, set the scene and outline how today's special session will work.

**09:40 Catching up with COVID-19 benefit changes**

Session led by Tom Messere (Big Book of Benefits, NAWRA Committee). Topics will include:

- Sickness benefits and lock down;
- The rush to Universal Credit and its impacts;
- Other benefits: legacy, ESA and PIP;
- The new HMRC 80% schemes and their benefit implications

**10.35 Break**

**10:50 Back to the future with Gareth's 'Benefit Crystal Ball'**

Gareth Morgan (Ferret, Welfare Rights Advisers Cymru, NAWRA committee) will look at examples of how the new rules and rates work after the April and COVID-19 changes, including how Universal Credit and legacy benefits compare now and more detail on how the benefit cap can negate many of the increases.

**11:50 Break**

**12:00 Information Exchange - “How is this new world affecting us?”**

We invite questions in advance for this Q&A session if possible due to time constraints. Send your question to [kelly@nawra.org.uk](mailto:kelly@nawra.org.uk). The session is likely to cover contemporaneous issues such as telephone assessments, virtual tribunals, rightsnet forums and other resources, PIP take-up, issues around job retention schemes and more!

**13:00 Close**