

Support Notes on Commissioner's Advice Crisis Loans and Resources

1. Crisis loans for items and income resources.

Direction 14

Unless an applicant has sufficient resources to meet all his and his family's immediate short-term needs immediately, then he is eligible for a crisis loan. However, the burden of proof is on him to show, on the balance of probabilities, that his resources are insufficient.

In practice, this Advice means that very few crisis loans for items are likely to fall at Direction 14. Generally, this will only happen where the amount requested to meet the applicant's needs is very small.

Surplus income

Inspectors should not require applicants to provide evidence to show that their extra premiums are not available to them to meet their need. They should infer nothing from an applicant's silence on this issue.

The principles on *Seeking further information*, outlined in the *Commissioner's Advice on Income Resources (CCG cases)* and the relevant *Support Notes*, apply equally to crisis loans. Please refer to these papers.

DLA mobility

This requirement to disregard is a matter of law, not evidence. Even if the evidence shows that the applicant has no special mobility costs, it should still be disregarded.

2. Crisis loans for living expenses and income resources.

No support notes.

3. Direction 14 and capital resources.

The relevant paragraph of the Guidance is number 4120.

4. Direction 3 and capital resources.

Example: Mr H requests a CL for a bed and a wardrobe. He has £100 saved up to pay his phone bill. Direction 14 is met because £100 is not sufficient to meet the need for both the bed and the wardrobe. The wardrobe fails the test of Direction 3 because it is not necessary to prevent serious risk to his health. A bed is necessary to prevent serious risk, but a CL is not the only means because £100 is enough to buy a bed. Direction 3 is therefore not met for either item.