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Addendum to the CPD Scheme Guidance 2020-21

Changes to CPD point requirements

The maximum 2 points for general reading stated in paragraph 4.2.4 and Appendix 1 has been changed to a maximum of 5 points.

This was agreed to match the change the IMA announced to its CPD scheme in October. The change was in recognition of the larger amount of reading required of advisers to keep up with changes to law and process during the pandemic.

The total CPD points required for the year remains at 16.

This amendment only applies for the current 2020-21 CPD year. The points for general reading will return to 2 per year in the next CPD year beginning 1st February 2021.

The deadline for submissions for this year is 31st January 2021.

Anyone struggling to achieve the required points before this deadline should contact cpd@i-m-a.org.uk. The IMA team can suggest activities to help meet the requirements.

Clarification about the reading and research CPD category

General reading relates to regular updates and journals which debt advisers are expected to follow. During the pandemic, this would include:

- Quarterly Account journal
- Shelter SDAS monthly updates
- Citizens Advice Expert Advice Team weekly COVID updates
- Citizens Advice Adviser articles
- Updated FCA guidance

The cap on points only relates to general reading. There is no cap on other activities in the reading and research category. These include:

- Watching pre-recorded webinars and recordings of money advice group (MAG) speakers. There are more than 30 recordings and webinars on the Networking and Information Sharing section of the IMA website, so this is a useful way to accrue CPD flexibly
- Research for an article or report, or preparing for a discussion. For example, the IMA's recent Cabinet Office call for evidence focus group exercise included 1 point for preparatory reading.