

'at a glance guide to'



Benefit Changes in the HM Treasury Spending Review and the Autumn Statement 2015

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Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change	Reference-Spending Review and Autumn Statement
Benefit cuts		
Intention to still save £12 billion	Saving £12 billion on welfare bills by 2019-2020.	exec. summary, 1.127
Basic State Pension rises and the new single tier Basic State Pension	From April 2016 the basic State Pension will be £119.30(triple lock guarantee). From April 2016, the new single tier basic State Pension will be £155.65 per week.	executive summary
Minimum Guarantee under State Pension Credit	From April 2016, the single rate of the Standard Minimum Guarantee will increase by £4.40 to £155.60 per week. The couple rate will rise by £6.70 to £237.55 per week. At the same time, by adjusting the Savings Credit threshold, the Pension Credit awards for those currently receiving Savings Credit will be frozen where income is unchanged. This part-saving £120 million by 2020/2021. The Savings Credit threshold will rise to £133.82 for a single pensioner and to £212.97 for a couple, which will reduce the single rate of the Savings Credit maximum by £1.75 to £13.07 and the couple rate by £2.68 to £14.75.	executive summary, 3.49
Working Tax Credit earnings threshold change	From April 2016 income increase disregard lowered from 5,000 to 2,500.	1.122
Universal Credit Minimum Income Floor uprated with the national living wage	Uprates the individual threshold in the Minimum Income Floor for the self-employed in line with the NLW instead of the NMW. saving £180 million by 2020/2021.	1.123
Housing Benefit reduced for claimants in the social Sector	For new tenancies signed after 1 April 2016, Housing Benefit entitlement will change from 1 April 2018 onwards. Cap the amount of rent that Housing Benefit will cover in the social sector to the relevant Local Housing Allowance, which is the rate paid to private renters on Housing Benefit. This will include the Shared Accommodation Rate for single claimants under 35 who do not have dependent children. saving £225 million by 2020/2021.	1.125

Limit Housing Benefit and State Pension Credit for those abroad	From April 2016, for all claimants, limit Housing Benefit and Pension Credit payments to 4 weeks for claimants who are outside Great Britain. saving £10 million by 2020/2021.	1.125
Claiming JSA	Requiring jobseekers to attend the jobcentre weekly for the first 3 months and bringing forward the more intensive support element of the Help to Work programme.	1.129
Support into Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Work and Health Programme after current Work Programme and Work Choice contracts end, to provide specialist support for claimants with health conditions and disabilities. • a real terms increase in spending on Access to Work • expanding the Fit for Work service supporting more people on long-term sickness absence with return to work plans • The government will publish a White Paper in the New Year that will set out reforms to improve support for people with health and disabilities 	1.129,1.13 1.132
DWP reduced in size and job centres collocated in council offices	DWP will be transformed into a smaller, more efficient department. DWP's estate will be reformed and reduced by 20% and the number of jobcentres co-located with local authorities will be expanded, benefiting claimants and those using government services while delivering a total reduction of 30% in estate costs.	2.3
DHP's continue	Additional discretionary housing payment funding will be made available to local authorities.	1.125
Tax Credit debt collection	Following the successful implementation of the contract to use the private sector to make phone calls and send letters and text messages to collect tax credit debt, the government will contract with the Debt Market Integrator to continue to deliver this service. This will begin in July 2016 following the end of the current contract.	
Housing Benefit and Temporary Accommodation	From April 2017, remove the temporary accommodation management fee that is payable with Housing Benefit in respect of households placed in temporary accommodation. Local authorities will be given more than equivalent funding directly, to enable them to manage temporary accommodation and homelessness pressures as they see fit.	policy costing doc.

**Welfare Cap Forecast-
government forecasts
this will be missed**

	2016/ 17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Welfare Cap	115.2	114.6	114	113.5	114.9

1.46
table 1.5

Spending review and Autumn Statement date 25 11 2015

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