

**Benefit Changes in the
HM Treasury Autumn Statement 2023
(Last update 22/11/2023)**
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Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change	Reference- Autumn Statement date 22 11 2023
Benefit changes		
Uprating of Benefits-above Working age	Increasing State Pension and Pension Credit in April 2024 in line with the triple lock, measured by average earnings which is 8.5%.	3.48
Uprating of Benefits-Working age	Increasing benefits in April 2024 in line with inflation, measured by September 2023 CPI which is 6.7%.	5.29
Uprating of Local Housing Allowances	From April 2024, increase the Local Housing Allowance rate to the 30th percentile of local market rents. (previously the rate has been frozen since April 2020). Costing £1.7 billion by 2028/29.	5.2, 5.28
Work Capability Assessment	Reform to descriptors, saving £1.265 billion by 2028/29.	5.26
Supporting sick and disabled into work	<p>Individual Placement and Support expansion – The government will expand access to Individual Placement and Support (IPS) ... to reach an additional 100,000 people over the next 5 years.</p> <p>5.23 NHS Talking Therapies expansion –reach an additional 384,000 people over the next 5 years, and increase the number of sessions available to those that use the service.</p> <p>5.24 Universal Support expansion –Double the number of yearly places on Universal Support to 100,000.</p> <p>5.25 Occupational Health –Set out the minimum level of Occupational Health intervention that employers could adopt to help improve employee health at work.</p> <p>5.26 Work Capability Assessment (WCA) gateway reform – The government is reforming the activities and descriptors in the Work Capability Assessment for new claimants in Great Britain, to support more people into employment, with implementation occurring from 2025.</p> <p>5.27 Fit note reform – The government will explore end-to-end reforms of the fit note process to support more people to resume work after a period of illness. They will include trigger points for referrals for people who have received a fit note for a prolonged period of time and new designs of the fit note form.</p>	5.22- 5.27
Additional Jobcentre Support	Expanding Additional Jobcentre Support currently live in 90 Jobcentres in England and Scotland to trial intensive support for people who have been receiving Universal Credit for 7	5.18

weeks, in addition to the support after 13 and 26 weeks announced at Spring Budget 2023.

Restart Scheme	From 2024, Those who have been on Intensive Work Search for 6 months will now be eligible, as opposed to the previous requirement of 9 months. Work coaches will track the activity of participants to ensure they comply with requirements of the Restart programme.	5.15
Mandatory Work Placements	From late 2024, Universal Credit claimants in England and Wales who have completed Restart and remain unemployed after 18 months will undergo a review conducted by a work coach. Claimants who do not agree to revised claimant commitments without a good reason, which could include attending a mandatory work placement or new intensive work search activities, will have their claim closed.	5.16
Universal Credit surplus earnings	Maintain the surplus earnings threshold for Universal Credit claimants in Great Britain at £2,500 for a further year until April 2025.	5.32
Expanding the Flexible Fund for victims of domestic abuse	£2m of additional funding to expand the Flexible Fund, ... an innovative new approach to provide one off payments to victims of domestic abuse. This support will reduce the financial pressure on victims to return to the abuser and will enable victims to set themselves up sustainably, for example by securing long term accommodation.	5.36
DWP access to data	Targeting fraud- increase the DWP's access to data on benefit claimants that is held by third parties (e.g. banks).	3.28
Minimum Wage(National Living Wage)	From 1/4/2024, increase the National Living wage by 9.8% to £11.44 per hour. The age threshold will be reduced from 23 to 21. For those aged 18 -£8.60 an hour, for 16-17 year olds and apprentices- £6.40 an hour.	5.14
Class 1 Employee National Insurance Contributions reduced	From 6/1/2024, employees will pay 2% less class 1 National Insurance contributions. Cut from 12% to 10%.	3.7, 5.13
Class 2 Contributions payments(self employed) abolished	From 6/4/2024, self-employed people with profits above £12,570 will no longer be required to pay Class 2 NICs, but will continue to receive access to contributory benefits, including the State Pension. Those with profits under £6,725 and others who pay Class 2 NICs voluntarily to get access to contributory benefits including the State Pension, will continue to be able to do so.	3.10
Class 4 Contributions(self employed) reduced	From 6/4/2024, reduce rate paid on profits from 9% to 8%.	3.9, 5.13

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