

**Benefit Changes in the
HM Treasury Spring Statement 2025
(Last update 24/2/2026)**
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Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change	Reference- Spring Statement date 26/3/2025, and associated costings documents, green paper 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working'
Benefit changes		
PIP- entitlement conditions to be changed	<p>The government will undertake a fundamental review of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment, involving policy experts, stakeholders and disabled people. Will save £4.515 billion by 2029-30. Amendment- The new eligibility requirements will be implemented from November 2026 for new claims only</p> <p>In the meantime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> require those claiming the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to score a minimum of 4 points in at least one activity to qualify for a daily living award. do more WCA's. more face to face PIP assessments and WCA's. offering aurally recorded assessments available to those who appeal. PIP- severe conditions – use evidence from other sources to make awards instead of assessments. review light touch reviews. getting evidence from NHS digitally. 	2.34 and green paper
PIP- review capacity increased	From April 2026, increase the number of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) award reviews assessment providers can undertake. Will save £200 million by 2029-30.	2.35
Work Capability Assessment: Do not proceed with reforms due in 2025, scrap WCA in 2028	Will not save £1.645 billion by 2029-30. WCA scrapped in 2028- extra support linked via PIP instead.	green paper
Work Capability Assessment(WCA)- more	From April 2026, begin reassessing those found eligible for incapacity benefits under certain criteria. These	2.35

reassessments for some

reassessments will affect those who were eligible under the 'substantial risk' criteria, and those with conditions with a short-term prognosis who may have recovered. Will **save £355 million** by 2029-30.

Universal Credit Health Element: Maintain at 2025-26 rate until 2029-30, reduce rate by 50% for new claimants from April 2026 and maintain until 2029-30

From April 2026, From 2026-27-

3.11

- ~~existing claimants the award rate of UCHE will be frozen.~~
- ~~new claimants will receive a lower award, set at 50% of the Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity (LCWRA) rate for 2026/27 and then frozen.~~ **Amendment-**

Universal Credit Act 2025-

- **Freeze of LCWRA and LCW elements for 4 tax years 2026-27 to 2029-30- for clients who already qualify. Annual uprating does not apply.**
- **New Lower element for some new LCWRA element claimants for tax year 2026-27- £217.26 from April 2026(around half of normal amount).**
- **Those who can still get the higher rate- pre-2026 claimant(excluding up to 6 months if there was no entitlement due to excess income)or a severe conditions criteria claimant or a claimant who is terminally ill**
- **Severe conditions criteria(see above) - 'at least one of the descriptors set out in Schedule 7 UC regulations 2013 (the 16 main descriptors for the LCWRA element) constantly applies to the claimant and will do so for the rest of the claimant's life. and has been diagnosed by a qualified health professional.'**

Will **save £3.005 billion** by 2029-30.

Increase in UC Standard Allowance

From April 2026, uplift the Universal Credit Standard Allowance above inflation ~~for new and existing claimants, reaching CPI + 5% by April 2029. Will cost £1.885 billion by 2029-30.~~ **Amendment -2026-27 to 2029-30- increases by inflation (CPI) plus 2.3%, 3.1%, 4% and 4.8%**

3.12

Universal Credit Savings checks

From April 2025, increase checks on potential Universal Credit claimants by introducing more ways for them to verify the amount of savings they hold, as well as their self-employed income. Will **save £200 million** by 2029-30.

3.13

Help into Work

Costing £1 billion, targeted support for those with ill health. **Amendment- Fast-track this support plan originally scheduled for 2029**

green paper

Fraud	From April 2025, recruit 500 new counter fraud and error staff. Will save £40 million by 2029-30.	3.14
Possible changes to ESA c new style and JSA new style	Consult on- 2028- Contributory benefits -merging JSA(cb) and ESA (c) with a new time-limited unemployment insurance paid at the current ESA rate, with claimants expected to actively seek work, though with easements for those with work-limiting health conditions.	green paper
Right to Try Work	Working won't trigger a PIP or WCA assessment.	green paper
Safeguarding approach and access to work	Review approach.	green paper
Age increases for WCA(on UC) and PIP	Consult on delaying health element of UC until age 22 and raising PIP start age from 16 to 18.	green paper

Spring Statement date 26 3 2025

Green paper-<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper>