

'at a glance guide to'
Benefit Changes in the
HM Treasury Spring Budget 2016



Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change Budget report, Policy Paper 17.8 and costings paper	
Benefit Cap-new exemptions	From Autumn 2016, exempts all households who are entitled to Carers Allowance, the Carers Element of Universal Credit and Guardians Allowance from the Benefit Cap. costing £25 million by 2020/21	2.73
Change in the PIP Descriptors	Will apply to new PIP claims/ reassessments from January 2017. 1 point only to be awarded for descriptors 5(b)Managing toilet needs or incontinence and 6(b) Dressing and undressing concerning a need for aid/ adaptations(currently 2 points). saving- £1.28 billion per year by 2020/21. This may affect 640,000 claimants.	2.76
Increases the number of DWP Presenting Officers attending First tier Tribunals	From 2017, requiring more PIP and ESA presenting officers to attend appeal tribunals aimed at achieving a lower number of claimants who overturn their appeals. saving- £35 million per year by 2018/19	2.78
Extend the use of Real Time Information System	From September 2016 for ESA and from April 2017 for IS and JSA, to allow DWP staff access RTI when someone makes a claim and as soon as a change of circumstance is detected. Aimed at reducing fraud.	2.79
National Insurance class 2 contributions	Abolish Class 2 National Insurance contributions (NICs) and introduce a contributory benefit test into Class 4 NICs.	6.3(policy paper)
Date change- For Supported Housing- Defer the Reduction in rents for One Year	From 2017/18 for supported housing(instead of 2016/17) reducing social sector rents by 1% per year for three years. Saving- costing £25 million by 2020/21	17.8 (policy paper)
Date change- For Supported Housing- Defer new Tenancies change for One Year	Effective from April 2018, Housing Benefit awards in the social rented sector will be capped to those in the private rented sector, affecting all new tenancies from 1 April 2016. This change is deferred by one year from April 2017 for new tenancies in supported accommodation. costing £60 million by 2018/19	2.74
Reduce Housing Benefit and Pension Credit	Now from May 2016, end payments of Housing Benefit and Pension Credit to claimants who travel outside of Great Britain for longer than 4 weeks consecutively.	2.75

**for those
Abroad**

Terminally ill clients migrated from DLA to PIP Those who are terminally ill and due a higher award on migration from DLA to PIP will not have to wait the usual 4 weeks before the change in award takes place. 2.76

Help to Save Introduced for Low income Households Clients will be able to save up to £50 a month into a Help to Save account and receive a 50% government bonus after two years. They can then choose to continue saving under the scheme for a further two years. Open to all adults in receipt of Universal Credit with minimum weekly household earnings equivalent to 16 hours at the National Living Wage or those in receipt of Working Tax Credits. Accounts will be available no later than April 2018. 17.8 (policy paper)

Welfare Cap

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

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