

**'at a glance guide to'**  
**Benefit Changes in the**  
**HM Treasury Spring Budget 2020**  
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Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change	Reference- Spring Budget date 11 3 2020 - 105 page document
<b>Benefit changes</b>		
<b>Coronavirus</b>		
<b>Eligibility for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) - COVID-19</b>	Temporarily allow SSP to be paid from the first day of sickness absence, rather than the fourth day, for people who have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 or</li> <li>• individuals who are unable to work because they have been advised to self-isolate or</li> <li>• people caring for those within the same household who display COVID-19 symptoms</li> </ul>	1.93 1.94
<b>Medical Evidence for SSP-</b>	Employers- advising them to use their discretion not to require a GP fit note for COVID-19 related absences. NHS will bring forward a temporary alternative to the fit note enabling people who are advised to self-isolate to obtain a notification via NHS111.	1.95
<b>'New style' Employment and Support Allowance-</b>	If not entitled to SSP, payable for people directly affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating according to government advice for from the first day of sickness, rather than the eighth day.	1.96
<b>Universal Credit-</b>	Claim Universal Credit and access advance payments where they are directly affected by COVID-19 (or self-isolating), without the current requirement to attend a jobcentre	1.96
<b>Universal Credit-</b>	For the duration of the outbreak, the requirements of the minimum income floor in Universal Credit will be temporarily relaxed for those directly affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating according to government advice for duration of the outbreak, ensuring self-employed claimants will be compensated for losses in income.	1.96
<b>Hardship Fund- Council Tax Support</b>	Provide Local Authorities in England with £500 million of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area. Most of this funding to be used to provide more council tax relief, either through existing Local Council Tax Support schemes, or through complementary reliefs.	1.97
<b>Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) – refunds for employers</b>	This refund will be limited to two weeks. It will apply per employee, for employers with fewer than 250 employees.	1.99

Other changes-		
<b>Increase the National Insurance contributions (NICs)-</b>	Primary Threshold and Lower Profits Limit, for employees and the self-employed respectively, to £9,500 <b>from April 2020.</b>	1.169
<b>Personal Independence Payments(PIP)-</b>	Minimum award of 18 months.	1.181
<b>Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR)(under 35s) for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimants-</b>	Additional exemptions from for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rough sleepers aged 16-24</li> <li>• care leavers up to the age of 25</li> <li>• victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking.</li> </ul>	1.190
<b>National Living Wage-</b>	the NLW will apply to workers aged 23 and over <b>in April 2021</b> , with a target for it to apply to workers aged 21 and over <b>by 2024.</b>	2.5
<b>Repayment period for Universal Credit advances-</b>	The period over which Universal Credit advances will be recovered will increase to 24 months <b>from October 2021.</b>	2.9
<b>Maximum debt deduction cap on the Universal Credit standard allowance-</b>	Reduce from 30% to 25% of the standard allowance <b>from October 2021.</b>	2.9
<b>HB Fraud-</b>	£12 million per year in local authority resource to maximise their capacity to tackle Housing Benefit fraud and error.	2.10
<b>Universal Credit: transitional protection for former Severe Disability Premium (SDP) claimants-</b>	Increasing the rate of transitional payments for claimants in receipt of Severe Disability Premium when they move to Universal Credit.	2.12
<b>Universal Credit rollout-</b>	The government expects rollout to complete <b>by September 2024.</b>	2.13
<b>Universal Credit: surplus earnings-</b>	Delay to the reduction of the Universal Credit surplus earnings threshold from £2,500 to £300 <b>in April 2021.</b>	2.14
<b>EEA migrants arriving in the UK under the</b>	Aligning EEA migrants' access to non-contributory benefits with non-EEA nationals. This will apply to EEA	2.17

**new immigration system-**

migrants arriving in the UK under the new immigration system, **from January 2021**

**Stop export of Child Benefit-**

Stopping the export of Child Benefit payments made in respect of children living overseas. This will apply to EEA migrants arriving in the UK under the new immigration system, **from January 2021.**

2.18

**Porting of Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) loans-**

Amend the SMI loan regulations to allow recipients moving home to transfer their existing loan to their new property.

2.19

**Devolution of welfare benefits to the Scottish Government-**

Devolving a number of disability benefits to the Scottish government, including Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Industrial Injuries Disablement Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance.

2.22

**Welfare Cap Forecast- margin of error of 3%**

£billions	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Welfare Cap	119.3	125.7	127.5	130.5	133.8	137.2

Table 1.13

Spring Budget date 11 3 2020

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