

**Benefit Changes in the
HM Treasury Spring Budget 2023
(Last update 15/3/2023)**
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Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change	Reference- Spring Budget date 15 3 2023 & Policy paper- Spring Budget 2023 factsheet – Labour Market Measures & Health Disability White Paper
Benefit changes		
Universal Credit- Work Capability Assessment(WCA) to be abolished	<p>The Work Capability Assessment will be abolished and a new Health element will be awarded by passporting via receipt of Personal Independence Payment (see the new Health and Disability White Paper).</p> <p>The Limited Capability for Work Related Activity Element(LCWRA) in Universal Credit will be replaced by the new ‘Universal Credit Health element’.</p> <p>The new element will be set at the same rate as the Limited Capability for Work Related Activity Element(LCWRA) (support group) element.</p> <p>Due to apply to new claims only, on a staged, geographical basis from no earlier than 2026/2027.</p>	3.19
Health and Disability White Paper	<p>As well as the above, other ‘ambitious and extensive reforms to make sure those with disabilities have the right support, opportunities, and incentives to move into and remain in work...(eg)tailored work coach support’, A new Universal Support programme will match individuals in England and Wales who want to work with existing job vacancies.</p>	3.19, 3.20
Increase work Coach Support and work search requirement	<p>Increasing the Administrative Earnings Threshold to 18 hours per week(already increased to 15 hours in January 2023).</p> <p>Removing the couple’s Administrative Earnings Threshold. (affecting 100,000 additional claimants).</p> <p>Strengthen job support for claimants that are lead carers of young children(age 1 and 2) who currently have no or limited requirements to search for and prepare for work. Lead carers with children aged 3 to 12 will also be supported to increase the number of</p>	3.24, 4.146

	hours they are expected to search or prepare for work each week. (affecting 700,000 lead carers).	
Sanctions	Automating parts of the process (eg automated messages to claimants who fail to meet with their Work Coach) , and ensuring that Work Coaches have the tools and training to implement sanctions as effectively as possible, including for failing to take up a job/ look for employment.	3.25, 4.148
Universal Credit Childcare Costs- upfront	Support with childcare costs upfront. Costing £100 million in 2023/2024.	3.54, 4.2
Universal Credit Childcare Costs- Increase in the maximum	Increasing the Universal Credit childcare costs(paid at 85% of actual costs) maximum amounts to £951(previously £646.35) for 1 child and £1,630(previously £1,108.04 for 2 children. Costing £50 million in 2023/2024.	3.55, 4.2
Universal Credit- Surplus Earnings Level	Extend the £2,500 surplus earnings level within Universal Credit (UC) in Great Britain until March 2024. Mainly affects the self employed.	4.20
Personal Independence Payment- easement	Extend easements introduced in May 2021 around delays in PIP assessments and extension of PIP awards.	4.21
Universal Credit- Upgrading the Transitional Severe Disability Premium rates	Increase the Transitional Severe Disability Premium Element rates in UC for 2023-24 by CPI and annually until 2027-28. (previously the element has not been updated).	4.22
Costings for Cost of Living Payments in 2023/ 2024	£900 Cost of Living Payment for households on means- tested benefits in 2023-24- £7.560 billion £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment in 2023-24- £3.585 billion £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment in 2023-24- £1.17 billion	Table 4.2

Autumn Budget date 15 3 2023

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