

Benefits marked with 'm' are means-tested, where the claimant's (and partner's) earnings, savings and other income (including some benefits), are taken into account. It is the benefit unit that receives the money, so adults in the same BU should not both be in receipt of the same means-tested benefit.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (formerly War Disablement Pension)

Payable to members of the Regular and Reserve Forces for service injuries, ill-health and deaths occurring on or after the introduction of the scheme on 6 April 2005.

Attendance Allowance

Paid to disabled persons aged 65 or over living at home who need help with personal care because of their illness or disability. There are two rates; a lower rate for attendance during day OR night; and a higher rate for day AND night. Note that respondents can get AA even if no one is actually giving them the care they need.

Back To Work Bonus

People who have received Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance for 13 or more weeks and who work less than 16 hours a week can accrue a bonus to be paid when they come off the benefit and go into full time work. The amount accrued depends on how much is earned over the disregard level. This scheme ended on the 25.10.04. Any bonuses accrued up to that point would have been protected till 28.01.05.

Bereavement Allowance

Payable to widows and widowers who are widowed when aged 45 and over, with no dependent children. The benefit is time limited and paid for one year only. There will continue to be an age related scale for those widowed aged 45-55. Replaces Widow's Pension.

Bereavement Payment

Replaces Widow's Payment. A lump sum paid at the time of death to new widows and widowers.

Child Benefit

Paid for each child under 16 years of age, or aged 16-18 and still in full-time further (but not higher) education. Usually received by the mother. A higher rate is paid for the first child and a lower rate is paid for each subsequent child.

Child Maintenance Bonus

Paid to claimants who have a child for whom maintenance is being paid, and who leave Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. The bonus builds up each week whilst the claimant is on benefit and child maintenance is being paid and a lump sum is paid on leaving benefits.

Child Maintenance Premium

From 3 March 2003 families on Jobseekers' Allowance or Income Support who receive Child Maintenance will be able to receive some of this maintenance on top of their usual benefit payment.

Child Tax Credit

A payment to support families with children. The credit is paid to the person responsible for caring for the children directly into a bank or building society. The Child Tax Credit may also contain an additional allowance for child care expenses. Replaces Children's Tax Credit and Childcare Tax Credit.

Children's Bonus

Recipients of a number of benefits automatically receive this. It should not be recorded anywhere on FRS.

Community Care Grant from the Social Fund

Mainly for priority groups who get Income Support eg. elderly or disabled people, families under stress, people leaving institutional care.

Council Tax Benefit (CTB)

Paid by the local authority to the people who are liable for the tax - usually the householder(s). It is either a **main benefit** if householders have a low income, or a **second adult rebate** if there are other adults in the household who are not liable, do not pay rent to the householder, and have a low income. CTB should not be confused with CT *exemptions* (eg. for student households), or *discounts* (eg. for one-adult households). People on Income Support, income-based JSA or Pension Credit will usually get the benefit. For properties in Bands F-H the maximum benefit is limited to that for Band E, if the claim began after April 1998. For tenants in multi-occupied accommodation (eg. bedsits) the landlord is usually liable for the tax, and adds an amount to the rent; here, the tenant will not be able to get CTB.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Persons under 65 can claim for DLA if they need help with personal care and/or with getting around. Once an initial claim is made there is no upper age limit. DLA can be paid even if no-one is giving the care needed. There are two components:

- (i) **Care Component** which covers things like washing, dressing, using the toilet, cooking a main meal. Paid at a Higher, Middle or Lower rate.
- (ii) **Mobility Component** for persons who can't walk or have difficulty in walking. Paid at Higher or Lower rates.

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

An allowance paid to encourage children aged 16 to 20 years in low income families to stay on at school. Payment of EMA will be made in term time only, an average of 38 weeks per year. There are two types of payments: Weekly Payments and Bonuses. Information on Weekly Payments are collected on the FRS, but information on Bonuses or on reimbursed travel expenses as part of the allowance are not.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) will replace Incapacity Benefit and Illness based Income Support for new claimants from October 2008. Being extended to existing claimants over time. All claimants will receive a 'Main Phase' payment payable at the same rate as Jobseeker's Allowance 25+. Payment will also include either a 'work related activity component' or 'support component' depending on how the claimant's condition affects their ability to work. Severe Disability Premium (SDP), Enhanced Disability Premium (EDP), Carer Premium, Pensioner Premium and Higher Pensioner Premium currently payable with IS and IB will still be payable as a premium on top of ESA.

Extended Payment of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit

These benefits may be received for a further 4 weeks by people aged under 60 when they start working full-time following a period of at least 6 months being unemployed, on a Government Training Scheme, or on Income Support as a lone parent or carer. Also known as Housing Benefit Run On.

Funeral Payment

A grant from the Social Fund can be obtained if the respondent or partner gets Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Tax Credits, Housing Benefit, or Council Tax Benefit.

Guardian's Allowance

Can be claimed for a child who is in effect an orphan and who lives with the claimant, or whom they help to maintain, whether or not they are the legal guardian. Paid at same rate for all children.

Housing Benefit

Paid by the local authority to people who need help with rent. Council tenants on Housing Benefit get a *rent rebate* which means that their rent due is reduced by the amount of rebate. They are however responsible for their own water charges so those on 100% rent rebate do pay a weekly or fortnightly amount to cover these and other charges, where other charges

are involved. Private tenants and Housing Association/Registered Social Landlords' tenants usually receive Housing Benefit (or *rent allowance*) personally. At present Housing Benefit is paid directly to the landlord in a small number of cases, from April 2008 all new claimants will be paid personally. People on Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance usually get maximum Housing Benefit. Receipt is dependant on savings being below the eligibility threshold. Housing Benefit is not normally more than rent but from October 2003 in some areas Housing Benefit may exceed rent as part of the Local Housing Allowance Project (please check with respondent).

Incapacity Benefit (IB)

Paid to people who have been medically assessed as incapable of working, if they have paid enough National Insurance contributions. People ineligible for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) may receive it. If a person is/was receiving SSP, Incapacity Benefit replaces it after 28 weeks. There are three basic rates depending on the period, age of the individual(s) and severity of incapacity and a number of supplements may be received. Medical assessments to review eligibility may be carried out periodically.

Income Support (IS)

The main benefit for adults with a low income who are not eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance and are not working 16 hours a week or more on average. It is made up of *personal allowances* for each member of the benefit unit, *premiums* for any special needs, and *housing costs*, principally for mortgage interest payments. Those on IS are likely to be getting Housing Benefit (if in rented accommodation) and Council Tax Benefit (if liable). Often paid to top up other benefits, or earnings from p/t work. Pension Credit is the name of IS for those aged 60+.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Provided for employees injured at work or suffering from an industrial disease. The amount depends on degree of disablement. Some recipients may also be entitled to Unemployability Supplement. Those whose disablement is assessed as 100% also get **Constant Attendance Allowance** at one of four rates, and may also be eligible for **Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance**. Also see **Reduced Earnings Allowance**.

Industrial Death Benefit Widows Pension

Widows of those employees killed at work or by an industrial disease may be entitled to this pension, paid at higher or lower rates, if their spouse died before April 1988.

Invalid Care Allowance (ICA)/Carer's Allowance (CA)

A weekly benefit for people on a low income who give regular and substantial care (for 35+ hrs per week) to a severely disabled person who gets either DLA or Attendance Allowance. Paid at two rates for the Allowance itself and the Adult Dependent addition.

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

Replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people in October 1996. The claimant must be out of work or working less than 16 hours a week, actively seeking work and have an agreement with the Employment Service. There are two types: contribution-based, dependent on the amount of NI contributions paid, and income-based, dependent on income and savings. There are fixed age-related allowances, plus for income-based JSA only, extra allowances and premiums.

Job Grant

For people aged 25 or over who leave benefits to go into work after 25.10.04. Recipient must have been on IS, JSA, IB or Severe Disablement Allowance continuously for at least 26 weeks, the work must be for at least 16 hours a week and expected to last for at least 5 weeks. Paid at a lower rate for single people and couples without children and a higher for lone parents and couples with children.

Lone Parent's Benefit Run-On

Gives lone parents who leave IS or JSA (IB) to go into work an extra 2 weeks IS provided the lone parent has been on IS or JSA (IB) continuously for at least 26 weeks, they have been a lone parent throughout that period, and the work is for at least 16 hours a week and expected to last for at least 5 weeks. From 25.10.04, this benefit has been replaced by a new Job Grant.

Maternity Allowance

For women who have paid enough Class 1 or 2 NI contributions but are not entitled to Statutory Maternity Pay because, for example, they are self-employed or recently changed jobs. Payment can be made for a period of 39 weeks beginning 11 weeks before the baby is due (later if still working).

Sure Start Maternity Grants (formerly maternity expenses) *m*
A one-off payment from the Social Fund for maternity expenses is available if the respondent or partner is getting either Income Support, Income-based JSA, Pension Credit or Tax Credits.

New Deal Schemes

People on New Deal schemes may be offered work in the Voluntary Sector or with the Environmental Task Force. They are usually paid an allowance equal to their Jobseeker's Allowance. The schemes include: New Deal for people aged 18-24, New Deal for people aged 25 plus, New Deal for Lone Parents, New Deal for Disabled People, New Deal for partners and New Deal for people aged 50 plus.

Over 80 Pension

Also called "Old Person's Pension" is payable when a person reaches 80 and does not get an NI Retirement Pension or whose NI pension is less than the Over 80 Pension.

Pension Credit *m*
From October 2003 this replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). Comprises 2 elements: i) A Guarantee Credit which is the minimum a pensioner can be expected to live on. Additional amounts for owner occupiers, disability and caring responsibility. ii) The Savings Credit which aims to reward those who have made provision for their retirement over and above the State Pension. Applications for Pension Credit could be made from April 2003.

Reduced Earnings Allowance

Paid to people who cannot return to their regular occupation or do work of the same standard due to disablement caused before October 1990 by industrial accident or disease. It should be included in the 'other state benefits' category.

Retirement Pension (National Insurance)

Paid to women aged 60 or over and to men aged 65 or over. This is the normal State Pension and is the same for men and women who have paid their own NI contributions at the standard rate, and for widows/widowers on their late partner's NI contributions. Persons on this pension may also get Pension Credit (PC), details will be shown on the notification form for respondents who receive payments directly into their bank or building society account or in their pension book. The majority of pensioners you interview will be getting this pension. From April 2005, retirement pension can be deferred for as long as required.

Severe Disablement Allowance

Paid from the 29th week of illness to persons of working age who do not qualify for Incapacity Benefit. Persons getting this can also claim Income Support. Be careful not to confuse this benefit with Incapacity Benefit. Age additions can be paid in conjunction with Severe Disablement Allowance at a higher, middle or lower rate.

Social Fund Loans

Repayable interest free loans are available: Budgeting Loans to those on Income Support to help spread budgeting costs for certain items and Crisis Loans to people who cannot meet short term expenses in an emergency.

Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP)

Received by employees during maternity leave. It is paid by the employer. The respondent must have been in the same job for at least 39 weeks and earning enough to have to pay NI contributions. SMP can be paid for up to 39 weeks. The employer may also add 'made-up' pay. It should only be recorded in the last/usual pay. The first six weeks are paid at 90% of respondent's salary, and 20 weeks at the standard flat rate or 90% of average earnings if less than standard flat rate.

Statutory Paternity Pay (SPP)

Received by employees during paternity leave. It can be paid for up to 2 weeks. The weekly amount is the standard flat rate or 90% of average earnings if less than standard flat rate.

Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP)

Received by employees for up to 39 weeks at the standard flat rate or 90% of average gross weekly earnings if less than standard flat rate.

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

Paid by employers to employees who earn enough to have to pay NI contributions. It is paid after 4 consecutive sick days for a maximum of 28 weeks in any spell or linked spells of sickness. (After 28 weeks, or if the employer's obligation to pay SSP ends before then, the respondent will usually transfer on to Incapacity Benefit). The employer may also add 'made-up' pay. It should only be recorded in the last/usual pay.

War Disablement Pension

For claimants who were injured or disabled in the Armed Forces between 1914 and 1921 or from 1939 to 6 April 2005.

War Widow's/ Widower's Pension

Payable to widow/ers and children of someone killed in the Armed Forces or who died as a result of injury sustained in the Armed Forces.

Widowed Parent's Allowance

Formerly Widowed Mother's Allowance. A weekly basic benefit plus an allowance for each dependent child for whom the parent gets Child Benefit. The child(ren) must be the child(ren) of the widow/widower and their late husband/wife.

Widow's Pension

A weekly benefit for women aged 45-65 (or 40-65 if widowed before 11 April 1988), paid when their husband dies or when their Widowed Mother's Allowance ends. Replaced by Bereavement Allowance on 1 April 2001 although existing widows will continue to receive it.

Working Tax Credit *m*

A payment to top up the earnings of working people on low incomes, with or without children. Usually paid via PAYE and based on the number of hours worked and income (joint income for couples). There are extra credits for those recipients in working households where someone has a disability. It replaced Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit in April 2003.

Winter Fuel Payments (WFP)

WFPs are made where there is at least one person in the household over the age of 60 to help with heating bills, regardless of whether they are in receipt of any other state benefits. Those aged over 80 receive WFP at a higher amount than those aged 60-79. From Winter 2004/5, eligible households with someone aged 70 or over receive a one-off payment with their WFP to help with living expenses such as council tax. Payments may also be made in arrears for past winters.

Family Resources Survey

April 2008

Interviewers' Pocket Guide to Benefits



Note: this Guide is for interviewer use only. It is not intended to be an authoritative statement on savings and investments; it is designed to give FRS interviewers a basic picture of savings and investments for which details are required from respondents to the survey.