

**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 (£51.85); and a higher rate for day AND night (£77.45). Note that respondents can get AA even if no one is actually giving them the care they need.

### 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. Widows aged 45-54 will be paid £31.79 to £98.53 on an age related scale. Widows aged 55- pension age will be paid 105.95. Replaces Widow's Pension.

### Bereavement Payment

Replaces Widow's Payment. A lump sum of up to £2,000 paid at the time of death to new widows and widowers.

### Child Benefit

Paid for each child under 16 years of age, or aged 16-19 and still in full-time further (but not higher) education. Usually received by the mother. Two rates apply: £20.30 for the only/elder/ eldest child, and £13.40 for each subsequent child.

### Child Maintenance Premium

From 3 March 2003 families on Jobseekers' Allowance or Income Support who receive Child Maintenance will be able to receive up to £20.00 a week 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 related benefits e.g. 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* (e.g. for student households), or *discounts* (e.g. for one-adult households). People on Income Support, income-based JSA, income-related Employment and Support Allowance 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 (e.g. 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 one of 3 rates: Higher (£77.45), Middle (£51.85) or Lower (£20.55).
- (ii) **Mobility Component** for persons who can't walk or have difficulty in walking. Paid at Higher (£54.05) or Lower rates (£20.55).

### Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

An allowance paid to encourage children aged 16 to 18 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. Paid at a rate of £10, £20 or £30 per week. EMA has been closed to new applicants. If someone is already receiving EMA, they will continue to receive it for the rest of the 2010/11 academic year.

### Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced 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+ (£71.00). Payment will also include either a 'work related activity component' (£28.15) or 'support component' (£34.05) 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, income related Employment and Support 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 a rate of £15.55 for all children.

### Health in Pregnancy Grant

Paid to expectant mothers who see a health professional, such as their midwife, from the 25<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy and make an application before the birth of their child(ren). The grant is worth £190 per pregnancy. Mothers who reach the 25<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 are not entitled to Health in Pregnancy Grant.

### 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, income related Employment and Support Allowance or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance usually get maximum Housing Benefit. The recipient, or the recipient and their partner, must not have over £16,000 in savings. Housing Benefit is not normally more than rent but may exceed rent as part of the Local Housing Allowance Project.

### Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Youth Incapacity Benefit (YIB)

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. The long-term rate is £99.15, the lower short-term rate is £74.80 and the higher short-term rate is £88.55. YIB is paid to people under 20 years who have been continuously incapable of work for 196 days. If aged 19 and under and in full-time (further) education, entitlement to YIB will depend on the type and hours of schooling received. From October 2008, ESA replaced new claims to Incapacity Benefit/Youth Incapacity Benefit.

### 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+. IS is paid at a rate of £56.25 for single people aged under 25 and £71.00 for single people aged 25 or over. Couples aged 18 or over are paid at a rate of £111.45. A dependant addition may also be received at a rate of £64.99 if there is a child under the age of 16 years in the household and Child Tax Credit is not in payment. Families may be entitled to a family addition paid at a rate of £17.40.

### 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 Unemployment 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**. Those whose disablement is assessed as 100% are paid at a rate of £158.10 if 18 or over and £96.90 if under 18.

### Industrial Death Benefit Widows Pension

Widows and widowers of those employees killed at work or by an industrial disease may be entitled to this pension if their spouse died before April 1988. Paid at 2 rates: the higher rate is £107.45 and the lower rate is £32.24

### Carer's Allowance (CA)

A weekly benefit for people earning £100 per week or less 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: the Allowance itself is £58.45 and the Adult Dependent addition is £34.40.

### 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 a Jobseeker's Agreement with the DWP. 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. JSA is

paid at the rate of £56.25 for those aged under 25 and at the rate of £71.00 for those aged 25 and over.

### 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. Single people and couples without children receive £100. Lone parents and couples with children receive £250. Job Grant replaced Lone Parent's Benefit Run-On from 25.10.04.

### 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). The standard rate is £135.45.

### Sure Start Maternity Grants (formerly maternity expenses) *m*

A grant 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. One-off payment of £500. From 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011, this will be payable for only the first child (or children where twins, triplets etc.).

### The Work Programme

Delivered by a range of private, public and voluntary sector organisations who are at risk of becoming long-term unemployed to find work. It replaced Flexible New Deal and Employment zones in June 2011.

### 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. Standard rate is £64.40.

### 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 (£142.70 per week per single person, £217.90 per couple). 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. Maximum Savings Credit amounts are £18.54 for a single person, £23.73 for a couple. 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 60-65 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. The majority of pensioners you interview will be getting this pension. The basic rate for a single person is £107.45 and £171.85 for a couple. 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 or Severe Disability Premiums within income-related benefits. Basic rate for a single person is £69.00. Age additions can be paid in conjunction with

Severe Disablement Allowance at 2 rates: Higher rate £11.70 and middle or lower rate £5.90. Dependant additions may also be received at a rate of £34.60 for adult dependants and £11.35 for child dependants. New claims to SDA ended April 2001.

### Social Fund Loans

Repayable interest free loans are available: Budgeting Loans to those on Income Support, Income based JSA, income related ESA or Pension Credit 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 26 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 33 weeks at the standard flat rate of £135.45 or 90% of average earnings if less than £135.45.

### 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 of £135.45 or 90% of average earnings if less than £135.45.

### Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP)

Received by employees for up to 26 weeks at the standard flat rate of £128.73 or 90% of average earnings if less than 135.45.

### 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. The standard rate is £85.85.

### 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. The standard rate is £105.95.

### 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. Working Tax Credit replaced Working Family Tax Credits and Disabled Person's Tax Credit in April 2003.

### Winter Fuel Payments (WFP)

WFPs are made where there is at least one State Pension age person in the household to help with heating bills, regardless of whether in receipt of any other state benefits. WFP is not recorded on FRS.

## Family Resources Survey

April 2012

# Interviewers' Pocket Guide to Benefits



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