NAWRA Benefits Changes Chart: Part 1 - Earlier Changes (Jan 2011 to March 2021)

*(for changes **since** April 2021, please scroll down to pages 29 to 37 for **Part 2: Recent and Forthcoming Changes 2021 -2029**)*

NB – Timings for Welfare Reform Act changes in N. Ireland are indicated where different. Other benefit changes outside of that Act - apply from the same dates as for the rest of the UK

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Jan 2011	**Old "sickness route" benefits**	• No new linked claims for Incapacity Benefit, SDA or Income Support (for sickness) from 31/01/11. • Claimants no longer return to old rate but claim basic ESA and face Work Capability Assessment • IB/SDA claimants can still claim Income Support (and vice versa) if become eligible.	Targets those who have tried to move from "welfare to work". Goes back on "trial period" promise (e.g. to WTC claimants etc. that could return to previous rate of benefit if job did not work out.) A significant cut in benefits and less certainty of being able to continue on benefit given harder ESA tests.	Affects precisely people who have done what Governments want them to do. It undermines future confidence and will make people more fearful of attempting work. At odds with normal precedent of not making retrospective changes and aim of encouraging "welfare to work"
March 2011 to April 2014 *(but still ongoing!!)*	**Employment and Support Allowance**	Migration of existing claimants (of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Income Support through sickness) begins. Due to be completed but 100,000 remain as at March 2018, with individual Work Capability Assessments to determine if can transfer to ESA: If "YES" switch to ESA at transitionally protected rate - but may ***still*** lose ESA after April 2012 *(see below)* If "NO" can appeal and get assessment phase ESA pending, sign on for Income based JSA or lose benefit. **CUT of up to £2,500 million pa (30%) by 2014** *Not completed by April 2014 amidst assessment delays reaching 18 months. Atos pulled out early from contract*	• Affects around 1.5 million people across UK with a disproportionate effect in deprived areas with a high incidence of long-term limiting illness. • Pilots show a 30% "failure rate" (as opposed to 15% told by DWP to Parliament). Actual outcomes vary around 34% • Some groups previously exempt (e.g. severe mental health/ learning disabilities or on DLA Higher Care) face test for the first time. Additional support needs (e.g. CMHTs, CSTs). • Likely increase in demand for advice and help with appeals. • Of those disallowed 50% may get JSA, 50% lose benefit. • Those that pass on to Contributory ESA may be hit by time limit	Originally ESA was only for ***new*** claimants (to avoid memories of previous migration from Invalidity Benefit). ESA was meant to be an enabling benefit (albeit with some compulsion) to support people into work at a time of high employment. The former Personal Capability Assessment system was already the toughest in the developed world. The replacement Work Capability Assessment Test is even tougher. Refusal rates for have been far higher than Parliament were led to believe in impact assessments (68% rather than 50% for new claims and 34% rather than 15% for migration cases. Job Centre staff reporting a significant gap between those "failing" the ESA test and having realistic employability.
April 2011	***ALL*** **working age benefits**	Increases will be set by the *Consumer Price Index* (which produces **consistently lower increases**) instead of the *Retail Price Index* or the *Rossi* index. **CUT of £5,840 MILLION pa by 2014/15**	Those receiving any benefit will see its value decrease over time, lessening their ability to pay for essentials. Will be the biggest cut of all by 2015	Together with the VAT increase in January '11 from 15% to 20% and higher inflation in basic essentials, could make everyday life difficult to manage for those with benefits income.
	Child Benefit	**Frozen** for three years CUT **of £985 million pa**	As prices rise and benefit doesn't, families afford less.	A cut affecting ALL families and children, with the greatest impact proportionately on the poorest.
	Maternity Grant	**Restricted** to the first child only	Babies in neighbourhoods with complex financial and social problems now denied £500.	Help withdrawn from families with more than one child –will impact in areas where there is already high disadvantage and increases risk of poverty.
	BOTH **Tax Credits**	**Taper** on income for tax credits moves from 39% to 41% CUT **of £765 million pa by 2014/15**	Increases "marginal tax rate" by 2%	Will impact on all those in low paid employment and will impact on working families in particular
		Fall from £25,000 to £10,000 in "*disregarded increases in income during the current tax year*". **A cut of £140 million rising to £450 million**	Likely return of destabilising effect of overpayment recovery experienced in early years of tax credits. Moving into work paying over £10K may lead to overpayment problems.	Administrative complexity and cost for HMRC and less predictability and increased fear of recovery may be a disincentive to move from benefits into work or take up in work benefits.
	Working Tax Credit	**Basic & 30-hour elements** in WTC frozen for 3 years. **CUT of £625 million by 2014/15**	The amount of tax credits to working families **reduces** *in real terms.*	This and other changes below are all cuts affecting working families and does not fit well with the stated aim: of "*making work pay*"
		New category for workers aged 60+ who can claim WTC if working over 16 hours at 60 +, regardless of whether a disabled worker or have children.	Helps older workers to explore reduced hours option. Previously if no dependent children or not a disabled worker, then would have needed to work 30 hours to get WTC	Another option at 60 + to support carrying on in work, but may overlap with £ for £ reduction in Pension Credit if low earnings

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April 2011	Working Tax Credit (ctd.)	**Childcare element** of WTC reduced from 80% to 70% of actual childcare costs up to a capped maximum. **CUT of £385 million pa by 2014/15**	Those who qualify for help with their childcare costs will receive significantly less. Those with higher childcare costs will be worst hit. Change reversed under UC see below (but with lower limits)	Childcare is frequently cited as a major barrier to work, effectively **reducing** working parents' take-home pay. This cut will increase childcare costs for low-paid parents.
	Child Tax Credit	**Income threshold** for *family element* of CTC reduce from £50,000 pa to £40,000 a year. Taper above threshold increased sharply from 6.66%) to individual element taper of 41%. **CUT of £175 million**	"Better off families" lose £42 a month. Family Element now fully extinguished at £41,230 instead of £58,000 (or £66,000 when Baby Addition applied)	Some nominally "better off" families will feel the cut, especially if they have high housing or other living costs.
		Baby element in CTC scrapped. **CUT of £275 million by 2014/15**	Families with a child under 1 lose up to £10.50 pw	A cut affecting children already in poverty the hardest.
	Housing Benefit	Local Housing Allowance maximum caps for 1 bed (£250), 2 bed (£290), 3 bed (£340) and 4 bed (£400) Separate rate for 5 bedrooms (at any amount) scrapped. **CUT of £55 million pa**	Reducing the amount going to low-income households to help pay their rent, especially those who need a larger home.	Caps will *mainly* affect London and the SE, as elsewhere LHAs may be below new caps. Scrapping the 5-bedroom rate will affect larger families **everywhere**.
		Non-dependant deductions - large increases over next 3 years to make up ground since last increase 10 years ago. **CUT of £340 million pa**	Affects tenants with non-dependant adults (e.g. parents, grown up children) living in house). Non-dependants may not always be willing - or be asked - to make up the shortfall. Will be eased under UC	A major cause of rent arrears, family disputes and potential homelessness. Goes against policy aims of maximising use of housing stock and supporting families
		Local Housing Allowance Rates will be set at the 30th percentile of local private rent prices, not the 50th. **Cut of £425 million**	Only 1/3 (instead of ½) of available private rented housing locally will be affordable to HB claimants. HB claimants will find it more difficult to find affordable properties to rent in the private sector	A big cut which **increases of £40 million** pa in Discretionary Housing Payments will do little to offset.
		Additional room in LHA if need for a carer to come in. Additional bedroom for a disabled child **INCREASE of £15 million pa**	A gain that supports caring, but still ignores needs within a family (e.g. partners needing separate rooms because of disability). The additional bedroom for the disabled child is currently being challenged by the DWP	Long needed improvement, but does not address extra space needs within a family from disability. Does not address issue of spare room to enable "shared care" of children living elsewhere
	State Pension Age	• Accelerate speed of equalisation of pension age—with equal pension age to be achieved by November 2018. • Further changes thereafter (see below)	Raises minimum age for claiming both State Pension (for women) and Pension Credit. Similar increases in qualifying age for Attendance Allowance Some pensions will gain more from new single tier Retirement Pension, but others will have to wait longer for less.	Current age said to be "financially unsustainable", as smaller working age population has to fund growing RP. People can already choose to work on, but a higher pension age hits those in physical jobs and those affected by tougher tests for ESA. Increased competition for young workers in recession.
	State Retirement Pension	2007 legislation provided for basic State Retirement Pension to be increased at least in line with average earnings. Coalition Government made a commitment to increases for basic SRP in line with 'triple lock'. From 2012 onwards, this is highest of: Consumer Price Index, average earnings or 2.5%. Other parts of SRP e.g. additional pension remain linked to price increases. **Increase of £450 million pa by 2014/5**	Restores link with earnings and offers a "triple guarantee" for basic pensions. Will make a significant difference over time to pension levels especially when earnings grow. In short term, some losses from switch to CPI from Retail Price Index. Commitment to universalism in tackling pensioner poverty also seen for this Parliament in retention of other universal benefits Cold Weather Payments, TV licenses at 75+, bus passes, health benefits etc.	Welcome restoration of previous permanent commitment abolished in 1979 - and implemented in some years from 1997 to 2010). Link allows pensioners to keep up with general increase in living standards, reducing tendency to growing inequality and marginalisation. A pension only linked to prices since 1948 would be c £45 pw. This long-term strengthening of non-means tested "pension age" social security contrasts markedly with the drive to conditionality, sanctions, lesser eligibility and means testing in "working age" welfare.
	Pension Credit	Guarantee Credit is linked to earnings only in legislation. Due to low rises in earnings the Government has increased GC to match the cash rises in basic State Retirement Pension. Cost offset by reduction Savings Credit. **Increase of £535 million pa by 2014/15.**	The increase by the cash amount of State Retirement Pension has provided some protection in times of low earnings rises, though still real cuts. Over time the earnings link would be expected to provide real increases improving the income of the poorest 20% or so of pensioners on Guarantee Credit	May - in the long term – to some extent offset cuts to Savings Credit that could affect 50% of pensioners (see below). PC has only a 65 to 70% take up so need remains to encourage take-up and maximise entitlement linked to AA, especially ahead of changes ahead for e.g. mixed age couples.
		Savings Credit maximum amount frozen for next 3 years. **Cut of £330 million pa by 2013/14**	Affects those on minimal incomes—or levels just above it - who get a bonus for saving for retirement	May offset effect of other increases. Counter to general policy aim of encouraging people to make provision
Sep 2011	Educational Maintenance Allowance	Abolished in England. A loss of up to £30 a week for young people on low incomes staying on at school or college. About 10% as discretionary funding	Will impact particularly on 16- to 19-year-olds from low-income families, who lose up to £30 a week (and bonuses for attendance, attainment). Some may give up, others do less well.	Colleges value the extra resource for books/travel and incentives. Likely to increase NEETs and attainment gap between richer and poorer areas and reduce social mobility.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Jan 2012	Housing Benefit	**LHA Single room rent** restriction for single people (not lone parents) under 25 extended to people aged ***under 35*. Cut of £215 million pa by 2014/15**	Further extends restriction for people in private sector tenancies, increasing marginalisation and ghettoization. Exempt groups remain.	Rationale for lower rates "reflecting a different labour market reality", but unlikely in mid 30s. Will affect parents with "shared care" of children who may not have suitable accommodation for children to stay over.
April 2012	Working Tax Credit	**Couples** with children must work at least 24 hours combined (rather than 16) to qualify; with one working at least 16 hours. **CUT of £390 million pa** **50 plus element** scrapped. **CUT of £50 million**	Families on low earnings on low hours lose WTC. Those aged 50+ moving from unemployment into low-paid work now denied have to meet the basic rules for WTC, as to other claimants.	Impacts on working families where unable to find or work additional hours (e.g. because juggling caring responsibilities). Opens a gap for many between 16 and 24 hours where no top up income is available and may have to give up work. Loss of incentive for over 50's to undertake part time work for the first 12 months
	Child Tax Credit	**Family Element income threshold** abolished, so will start to taper off straight after CTC individual elements. **CUT of £480 million pa by 2014/15; Estimated that it will cost £2.3million to apply the means test.**	Family element (worth £10.50 pw) will cease being paid at much lower incomes than before affecting many on average earnings	This element replaced the tax allowance for families prior to tax credit. Would this have even been considered had this remained as an income tax allowance?
	ALL Tax Credits	**New rule** of *disregarding an income drop* of £2,500. **CUT of £585 million by 2014/15**	Tax credits will not increase to help you if your income drops unless the drop is *more* than £2,500.	Doesn't assist in an environment where reduced working hours is a better option than redundancy as claimants may find themselves worse of in employment. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit will still be adjusted for income drops & should be notified.
		Time limit for notifying changes of circumstances cut from 3 months to 1 month. **CUT of £330 million pa**	People will have less time to inform HMRC about changes affecting their tax credits.	Saving assumes a significant loss for people who miss deadline A particular problem for new parent(s), who may be under pressure adapting after a new baby, especially if any other difficulties.
	Contributory ESA *(Nov 2016 in NI)*	**Limited** to 1 year for people in the "work-related activity" group. Support group not affected. **CUT of £2,010 million by 2014/15**	Loss of basic benefits income for those with savings or working partners. Applied retrospectively, so some will lose ESA straight away. Doubles the cuts from migration and WCA.	Goes back on National Insurance covenant and principle of collective mutual social security. Pressure to take out less cost-effective private insurance. May still be worth hanging on to "credits only" claim in case of future Support Component or to benefit from permitted earnings in HB.
	ESA in Youth *(Feb 2016 in NI)*	**Abolished from April 2012.** Claimants switch to Income related ESA or come off benefit	Ends non-means tested ESA for under 20s. Targets people with severe or long-term illnesses or disabilities	Particular affects people with learning disabilities. Not all claimants will be able to get Income-related ESA instead, (e.g. if a working partner, compensation payment or capital provision made by parents).
	Pension Credit	**Savings credit reduced and frozen for four years** to £18.54 (single) and £27.73 (couple). Also, threshold for qualifying increased by 8.4% Saving **£330 million a year by 2014/15**	Fewer pensioners will qualify for the savings credit and those that do will receive less	Reduces the reward for 'moderate provision' – will affect pensioners with small amount of savings/occupational pensions
	Housing Benefit	**Local Housing Allowance** rates frozen ready for increasing with CPI if lower in April 2013	Less variation from month to month – harder to find properties within LHA if rents increase substantially	Main effect will be felt over time if CPI consistently lower than 30% percentile
May 2012	Income Support *(lone parents)* *Jan 2017 in NI*	New claims for IS (lone parents) only if a child **under age of 5** (was reduced to 7 in October 2010). If not, then "sign on" for JSA. Existing claimants with no child under 5 will have the benefit removed in phases.	Over 100,000 lone parents switched from Income Support onto JSA since 25/10/10. Nominally same benefit rate but must "actively seek" and be "available for work" or face JSA sanctions.	Lone parents want to work *where jobs and support exist*, when it is right for their children etc. Compulsion via JSA may just distract from action on barriers to work and risks increased child poverty. 21% of children of single parent who work full time are in income poverty.

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Oct 2012	**All DWP Benefits**	Civil Penalties will be introduced for claimant error in claims for Benefit	Local Authorities and the DWP will have this permissive power to enforce a civil penalty of £50 to claims which contained an error made by the claimant. This is part of the Governments strategy on 'tackling fraud and error in the benefit and tax credit system'.	Local Authorities do not have to implement this charge and if they do, it will only increase rent arrears; it may have the opposite effect of claimants being too frightened to rectify mistakes when identified, leading to increased overpayments and potentially higher incidences of fraud.
	Jobseeker's Allowance ***(Sanction changes)***	From the 22nd October, there will be a three-tier fixed penalty sanction - ranging from 4 weeks to 3 years - where the claimant will lose all their benefit. • **Higher level** sanctions (e.g., leaving a job voluntarily, or through misconduct, or failing to take up a job or mandatory work activity) - 13 weeks, 26 weeks and 152 weeks (for 1st, 2nd and 3rd offense within 52 weeks) • **Intermediate level** sanctions for 'not actively seeking or being available for work; 4 weeks /13 weeks. • **Lower-level sanctions** (e.g., failing to attend an adviser interview) - 4 weeks / 13 weeks	No evidence for effectiveness of sanctions.; the policy is more based on gut instinct rather than their impact on job seeking. Indeed, jobseekers may be totally incapacitated or pre-occupied with survival to effectively job seek. 50% of food bank applications are due to sanctions. Evidence suggests sanctions being issued as a first resort rather than a last with some claimants being set up to fail to achieve office targets. Complete confusion as to why a sanction is imposed which will impact on effectiveness as well as denying any justice. Claimants may take them on the chin rather than query not realizing they now risk a much longer sanction if they are hit again. DWP cancel 50% of decisions when challenged, much higher than their usual 15%	Impact greater on those who are more vulnerable and have chaotic lives. Will increase demand for services, especially food banks. Claimants may revert to payday lenders and illegal money lenders in order to access money. Impact on health and wellbeing of claimant Claimants may be dependent on hardship payments which Jobcentre do not always advise of and can be difficult to claim.
	In-work Credits & Job Grant	Abolished for those moving from out of work benefits to in work benefits	The Job grant of £100 for a single person and £250 for those with children assisted with additional expenses of going to work (e.g. clothing and travel); The £40/£60 weekly in work credit and return to work credit really boosted the income of those returning to work with a disability and lone parents.	These benefits were abolished in preparation for the introduction of Universal Credit – however the claimants that will be affected by this change in October will continue to claim the same benefit after the introduction of Universal Credit and there is no real justification for this cut.
Dec 2012	**Employment and Support Allowance** ***(sanctions changes)***	From the 3rd December there will be a three-tier sanction for those in the work-related activity group who fail to undertake work preparation and work focused interviews, where the claimant will lose payment of all their benefit	The sanction will be open ended until the claimant re-engages followed by a 1, 2 or 4-week benefit sanction. The weekly amount of the sanction also increases from the work-related activity component to the standard allowance (£28.15 to £71.00) Claimants can be referred into the Work Programme within 12 months of being expected to be fit for work. There is currently a pilot, mandating claimants into the work programme where they are likely to be fit for work within 2 years	This will impact on those who are more chaotic and vulnerable and are claiming a benefit because they have been assessed as unfit to work and yet will be required to undertake work related activities (including unpaid work). Even when the claimant re-engages (which it can be difficult to establish) they will not receive benefit for a set period of time, depending on whether they have been sanctioned previously and when. Cut undermines the logic of ESA Work Related Activity. Government denies a formal policy of more sanctions, despite mounting evidence of management pressure on Advisers to increase referrals for sanctions.
Jan 2013	**Child Benefit**	**Affluence test for CB: Tapered withdrawal of** Child Benefit (via income tax) where an earner over £50,000, stops completely at £60.000. **CUT of £2,485 million by 2014/15**	All families paid child benefit but clawed back via income tax on higher earner. Means some 500,000 new self-assessment tax returns. Reduces but does not remove one v. two income anomaly in original proposals	Undermines value placed on all children; CB redistributes from those without children to those with and main earner to main carer. Undermines support for collective social security. Cost of administering reduces any savings.
	Employment and Support Allowance ***(WCA changes)***	• **Tightening up of some of the descriptors** to make them more restrictive, • Definitions of hospital stay extended to be more than 24 hours (Reg. 25) • Substantial risk (Reg. 29) amended to exclude risks which could be significantly reduced by workplace adaptations or taking medication. • All types of chemo and radiotherapy now give 'limited capability for work related activity'	• Makes it even harder to score points on some of the amended descriptors leading to more claims being rejected. • Harder to be 'treated as' having limited capability for work. • With the one positive exception of cancer patients.	Some of the changes specifically brought in to nullify the effect of caselaw that had gone in favour of the claimant

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April 2013	**April Uprating**	• General increase of 2.2% CPI not 2.6% RPI • Many benefits restricted to 1% for next 3 years. • PC Savings Credit – cuts in max SC and increased thresholds	Real cuts of 4% over next 3 years for many, an extra 200,000 children in poverty. DWP claims e.g. carers, disabled and ESA Support Component will be protected – but basic allowances still hit – e.g. a carer or someone on ESA SC overall increase may be 1.4%. SC cut further penalises pensioners with small savings/pension provision.	Government says: Why should people on benefits do better than average earnings (strivers v. shirkers)? But over 60% affected are in work and little evidence of "shirking" in remaining 40%, while little room for belt tightening. But, if a case is being made for linking uprating to average earnings permanently, claimants would then share in longer term growth.
	Tax Credits	Increased income disregard falls to £5,000 (previously £25,000, reduced to £10,000 in 2011)	Extends April 2011 cut. Means greater likelihood of overpayments similar to when tax credits were first introduced	Further exacerbates cost, complexity and disincentives.
	Council Tax Benefit	Handover of responsibility for CTB schemes to Local Authorities in England and devolved governments in Scotland and Wales with a 10% reduction in budget Not applicable in N. Ireland as no poll tax or son of poll tax applied. Rent Rebate unaffected. **Cut of £490 million by 2014/15**	A cut in help with Council Tax for all those on low income, with potential confusion and postcode lotteries in England. Initially, many English councils will have to stay with the "default scheme" (i.e. as CTB) and find the 13% shortfall. In time, local schemes will develop within budget so working age claimants face cuts, minimum contribution (e.g. 10 to 20%), restrictions to band A, higher tapers, no backdating and other variations. Default scheme will run across Scotland and Wales for 2013/5 with devolved Governments funding the shortfall.	Working age claimants face reduced support and higher council tax bills just as other welfare reform cuts start to bite. Schemes will come under pressure if above inflation council tax rise or a large local redundancy. Increased confusion and complexity, with variation in systems and processes. Implications for collection for the Local Authority. Likely increase in arrears – court costs etc. Sept 2014 – NPI research shows biggest increase in council tax arrears in areas with biggest CTS cuts.
	Housing Benefit	**The "bedroom tax".** **HB restricted** to the number of rooms "needed" in social housing (already happens in private rented housing via the LHA). Will not apply in N. Ireland. All people affected in Scotland can receive a DHP, pending abolition of the tax. **CUT of £490 million pa by 2014/15** *(applies from February 2017 in N. Ireland)*	Applies to "working age" families. If in a larger home than deemed to "need", the eligible rent for benefit calculation will reduce causing a shortfall in rent. 14% for one extra bedroom and 25% for two or more. No account taken of bedrooms for: shared care with another parent, a child who may be returning from local authority care or need for extra bedroom because of disability needs. Case law arguments on room size, disabled child (allowed in certain cases under Burnip) and adult disability (failed). Last minute concessions allowed for 1 bedroom only for foster children and if a non-dependant is in HM Forces on active service. Families forced to move or find shortfall. Some 40,000 will come off HB.	Pressure on families affected and rise in rent arrears; potential impact on school rolls and GP lists with claimants moving in/out of area. A young person moving out could leave remaining family falling into debt or having to move for financial reasons. Disruption of local authority care arrangements if foster carers need more than 1room or families not able to afford to keep room available for planned return. No account for extra rooms adapted to needs of disabilities. Moving may not be easy – few smaller properties within social housing. This is not a policy for better use of social housing stock, nor is there need to control taking on too large properties as allocation is controlled by RSLs
		Local Housing Allowance up-rated in line with the *consumer price index* not average market rents. **Cut of £290 million by 2014/15**	Housing Benefit will no longer be based on actual rent costs.	Shortfalls in rent will have to be found out of other income. Debt and evictions are likely to increase.
	Social Fund *(Oct 2016 in NI)*	• Crisis Loans (waiting for benefits claim to be processed) to be replaced by 'short-term advances' of benefit. • Budgeting Loans to be replaced by budgeting advances under Universal Credit, but remain as now for those on legacy means-tested benefits; • All other Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants to be abolished and budget (as at 2010) passed to Local Authorities in England and the devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and in time N. Ireland	Reliant on 'payments on account' system operating effectively which it has not done previously. Replacement of short-term benefit advances has been chaotic with claimants wrongly referred to the local fund. Local Authorities likely to see an increase in people presenting themselves in need – increase demand for soup kitchens, food banks and furniture re-use projects. Cut in budget will result in less people accessing assistance when they need it. Overall loans allocation budget cut from £561million to £461 million. Not a saving as simply a cap on level of recycling of funds as loans repaid, but will reduce availability/size of loans.	Funding to Local Authorities in England is not ring-fenced and there is no statutory requirement for SF alternative, so likely to be postcode lottery situations arising. No independent review process – IRS disbanded. In **Scotland**, the *Scottish Welfare Fund* will be a national scheme run through local authorities. In **Wales**, the *Discretionary Assistance Fund* will be run by Northgate in partnership with Wrexham CBC and the Family Fund. Both schemes will be grants based. **N. Ireland** will also run a devolved scheme from 31.10.16 - to be known as *Discretionary Support* Any reduction in SF help is likely to increase high interest debt (pay day loans, Provident, loan sharks etc.). More families will be presenting themselves to the Local Authority as 'in need'. Government announced funding for local schemes to cease from 2015/16 though after judicial review challenge have agreed to consult and reconsider.
	JSA	New regs. come from April 29th bring conditionality and sanctions in line with UC e.g. spending 35 hours per week job seeking unless health or caring issues.	Higher expectations on claimants increasing risk of sanctions if fail to comply. Decisions about whether there is 'good cause' may be very subjective.	Danger of agreeing an unrealistic Claimant Commitment through not understanding/assertive enough. If they then fail to meet it loss of benefit could cause deterioration in health, lack of necessities or homelessness

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April/ Sept 2013	**The Benefits Cap** *(May 2016 in NI)*	**Household Benefits cap** on total benefits income for "working age" claimants (unless on DLA or Working Tax Credit) at median income" (c £350 for single adult, £500 for couples), applied initially by cuts in HB, but in future all UC. To be phased in across UK by September 2013. **CUT of £270 million pa**	Starts in 4 London Boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey then rollout across UK from July. Main impact in high rent areas – where people have same low disposable benefits income than other areas, but large rent bills, due to failure of the housing market/policy to provide sufficient affordable housing. Risks of homelessness, migration and ghettoization. Also affects larger households in all areas of UK	Knock on social costs of measure likely to be more than any savings. Govt. argues point of principle: why should people on benefits get more than workers or be allowed to live in affluent areas? Historically key workers, service industries in affluent areas needed staff, but risks of Paris style segregation. A ripple effect on rents beyond areas. Affects larger households in ***all*** areas- family disruption/child poverty. Worsens under UC
from April/ June 2013	**Disability Living Allowance & Personal Independence Payment** *From Jun 2016 in NI*	DLA for 16 – 64-year-olds is being replaced by PIP, but carries on for under 16s and for existing DLA claimants over 65 on 13.04.13. Attendance Allowance remains for new claims from 65 or over: • 20% budget cut and focus on most disabled. But focus on working age means a 26% cut. • 2 rates in each of Mobility and Daily Living component based on severely limited/ limited ability. • Rates look like DLA but without a Lowest Care – impact and change likely at all current rates. • Medical assessment of most claims using ESA process and descriptors/points model, but very different and carefully consulted criteria. • 10 Daily Living activities and 2 Mobility activities • A total of 8-11pts in each component for Standard rate and, 12 or more for Enhanced. • Longer qualifying period – 3 months backward test and 9-month forward test **PIP Timetable:** *New claims for PIP:* • **April 2013** – first new claims for PIP in pilot area – NW England and parts of NE. BUT no time for lessons from pilots before PIP went national. • **June 2013** – all new claims from 16- to 64-year-olds became claims for PIP across England, Scotland and Wales – from June 2016 in NI *Migration of working age DLA claimants* • Rollout of natural re-assessments from October 2013 • Rollout of managed process from October 2015 • Both will be from Dec 2016 in N. Ireland • See further entries below. **CUT of £1,075 million pa (20% of the budget but focussed on working age claimants – so 28% of these claims)** **Even if PIP is not lost or reduced, many face further cuts under Universal Credit**	Loss of DLA for those failing the new Personal Independence Payment (PIP) criteria – DWP expects 600,000 to come off DLA: • despite the success in funding independence and Community Care and DWP assessment of significant under claiming • a double loss to claimants on the lowest income as also lose DLA related premiums in means tested benefits. • loss of DLA may also mean loss of exemption from HB/Housing cost non-dependant deductions and the Benefits Cap • individual losses will be concentrated in areas of multiple deprivation where % on DLA are higher. • impact will be greater on those lower income individuals and communities. • DLA plays a key role in funding supported living schemes, promoting independence and reducing hospital admissions so extra costs to social services, housing and NHS. **Early days chaos** Wrong assumptions and failure to pilot meant that the assessment system has been overwhelmed in first year with claims taking 6 to 12 months for a decision. Action to recruit more assessors and by Capita to act on appointment issues and by Atos to get more and appropriate venues in place has been taken. But it takes 3 months to recruit an assessor and get them "approved so that not every case has to be audited... Target is no one to wait more than 6 months from Sept 2014 and normal service to start from Jan 2015 – when claims should take 12 to 15 weeks. **DWP Predicted outcomes:** Not just a simple removal of DLA Lowest Care. DWP Impact Assessment shows expectation of: • sharp drop in Higher Mobility and Lower Mobility, • more Care/Daily Living only awards, • far less Middle Care/Lower Mob etc. First actual outcomes showed an unusually high overall pass rate simply because of a disproportionate % of earlier decision being for special rules. Latest stats – December 2015- now that PIP has settled show: • PIP claims are taking 11 weeks normal rules and 6 days special rules. • 49% of new claims are successful: 38% of new awards are daily living only, 8% are Mobility only, 55% are both while 55% of awards include an enhanced rate and 2o% are top rate. • 76% of re-assessments were successful. • Only 15% of Mandatory Reconsiderations are successful but 60% of appeals are.	The delays go well beyond teething problems, are entirely unacceptable and could have been avoided by proper piloting of the change. DWP is in danger of establishing a reputation in serial incompetence in project management of over ambitious timescales and lack of thought to avoid unintended consequences. The experience of ESA suggests that points and descriptors do ***not*** guarantee objectivity and consistency – rather subjective selection, from expensively commissioned snapshot medicals. Limiting the measure of impact only to key tasks – however carefully constructed and consulted on – may offer less room for a holistic personal and individual assessment rather than more. The omission of supervision activity may rule out a number of very vulnerable people, who may cope reasonably with day-to-day tasks but need supervision to avoid danger to themselves or others. Unacceptable delays aside, there have been fears of a repeat of the poor ESA experience. But early reports seen so far suggest a higher quality and closer to reality assessment than many ESA ones; auguring well for the DWP laudable aim of "right decision, first time". Advisers would willingly trade harder appeals for fairer decisions for clients and those without access to advice. Reliability, variability and the 12-month assessment are likely to remain tricky issues… However, the aim remains for a budgetary cut of 28%. If a fair – and speedier – assessment process fails to deliver, it will be much easier to revise the descriptors to achieve those savings as has happened several times with ESA. The case against DLA was largely contrived after the decision was made and the DWP have been told off for mis selling PIP by the NAO. DLA was not "out of control" nor as little subject to medical scrutiny as claimed. DWP initial research also supported the wide perception that DLA was under not over claimed. The changes abandon slow progress made in DLA case law towards a common sense, flexible and social model of illness and disability. Any losses from lower or nil awards of PIP are likely to be compounded for those on the lowest incomes by the loss of entitlement to disability additions within means tested benefits and tax credits. This double whammy for the poorest and most vulnerable of those with disabilities, will not only affect personal incomes and independence. It will impact on the funding of support services and will result in increased NHS and social services costs. Numbers on PIP and DLA is also a factor in the award of money to local authorities leading to a further cut in resources. The losses will be concentrated in areas with the highest multiple deprivation having an effect on the local economy. It will also impact on the resources to support informal community care, self-help undermining the "Big Society" aims of community support and resilience

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
from April 2013	**Universal Credit** ***Sept 2017 in NI***	Merges most "working age" means tested benefits and tax credits into a single **Universal Credit:** • **Timetable on reset** – gradually replacing Income-related JSA in 10 pilot areas: o the original four: Ashton u Lyne, Oldham, Wigan and Warrington, plus o October 2013 rollout begins to Bath, Hammersmith, Harrogate, Inverness, Rugby and Shotton. o June to December 2014 rolled out to whole of north-west. o All the above areas currently have gateway conditions that allow couples and children (though still no one with disabilities o February 2015 – April 2016 – roll out to all jobcentres across UK in four tranches – for single people only. o From December 2014 very small roll out of the new 'digital service' – new IT – in part postcode areas of Sutton, Croydon and, from November 2015, London Bridge o For more info see www.gov.uk/jobcentres-where-you-can-claim-universal-credit and also www.lgbp.co.uk/ucpc/ucpc.html for a map from Lisson Grove highlighting the gateway conditions for each area. • 11 **Local Support Services partnerships** in place for 12 months from 1st Sept 2014 to pilot additional budgeting, mentoring, drug/alcohol and housing support to UC claimants. The LA partnerships include: *Argyll & Bute, Blaenau Gwent, Carmarthenshire, Derby, Dundee, Islington, (Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark), Northumberland & South Tyneside), South Staffordshire, West Lindsey, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea).* Six trials were extended for a further three months. • **Managed migration** to take place from June 2018 with 'the majority of cases' migrated over by end 2021. • DWP now expect most to move over to UC by "**natural migration"** via a change of circs. This will already be occurring, but become much more common as UC rolls out to all benefits. • **Transitional protection** will prevent loss at point of change to UC, but only if via a "managed migration" i.e. most claimants will not get TP. And TP can be lost	Aims to reduce barriers into work and complex interactions between in work and out of work benefits. • Aims to smooth transition to work with a common assessment of needs and withdrawal rate of benefit as income increases and no need to stop and reclaim different benefits. • Claim is that no-one will be worse off - at point of change. Transitional protection rules are extremely delicate, and most changes in circumstances will result in loss of this protection. • Past estimates of who might b be better or worse off under UC and already reduced poverty impacts are now invalid until revised for significant cuts from April 2016. • **Adult "disability" elements abolished.** o Only "limited capability for work" and "limited capability for work related activity" elements replacing ESA components. LCWRA element (at £72.83) higher than ESA SC to in part replace adult disability premiums. o But it absorbs not only EDP - automatically added to ESA SC - but also SDP and disability premium. o An award of DLA/PIP will not trigger any UC adult elements, except for "mixed age" couples forced off Pension Credit o This WCA only approach excludes many people with disabilities: disabled workers, lone parents, carers and jobseekers, unless they can pass the WCA. For some it will be expensive double testing, for others a test they may correctly not pass. o Those who pass the WCA but only have LCW lose out when previously may have EDP/SDP on top via their DLA. • **Workers with disabilities:** Those with disabilities / long term illnesses in work, face the absurdity of calling in for an assessment of limited work capability possibly on their way to a full-time job. This is the only route to extra support currently available from the WTC disability ("disabled worker") element. • **Child disability:** two disability elements as now, but with rates for most disabled children – except only those on the highest rate of Care - halved in order to harmonise with the LCW rate. A loss of over £28 pw for all children not on the highest rate of care. • **Carer's element** extended to working carers, but disabled carers can only claim carers *or* limited capability element, not both. • **Mixed age pensioner couples** (where one partner is above and one partner below pension age) will see a significant loss from being forced on to UC that has no pensioner element. Where such couples are both disabled their loss will be even more significant because of the absence of disability elements.	Attention has focused on the failure to achieve the proposed timetable which is now so flashing red that it has been reset so that UC is now firmly on time. With only c. 100,000 UC claimants to date, mostly new jobseekers, the actual impacts of a UC that works have perhaps been less scrutinised. Aspects of UC are rolling out ahead of the benefit: the UC sanctions regime is largely in place since late 2012 for ESA and JSA claimants now, the UC Claimant Commitment has replaced Jobseeker Agreements and pilots of direct payments to tenants of social landlords are taking place in HB. In-work conditionality could increase use of sanctions. The general concept of UC has had cross party support, though Labour is now committing to a full review and restoration of children's payments to the person with care. The initial aim of UC was to actually increase spending in an "invest to save" reform aimed at a long term pay off in better "welfare to work" outcomes. UC is now cuts led. Initial number crunching suggests that many in p/t and full-time work could be better off under UC, but now they are markedly worse off than colleagues on Working Tax Credits. However, whether some may still be potentially better off all claimants will arrive at the gates of UC, having had successive cuts in their benefits over the years since 2010. While some "losers" will get transitional protection, not all will get it nor keep it. And those that do may in some cases face many years of frozen benefits with each year getting harder. There are then some real issues, with much devil in the detail. • **The taper is 65%** - with an additional 20 to 30% from council tax support being taken out of the scheme (for a short term £500million cut) Marginal tax rates of 85% plus (as opposed to the original all in proposal of 55%) do little to address work disincentives and the "housing poverty trap". Yet a top rate of 50% is seen as intolerable for top earners, even though the DWP tell us that *"economic theory tells us that the impact of marginal tax rates is highest among low earners".* • **work allowances** are higher for those without housing costs, in part mitigating the loss of any help with mortgage interest on starting work. But the benefit is reduced from April 2016. Shared ownership owners/renters are hard hit: they lose help with interest but only qualify for lower rate housing costs. • **Impact on poverty:** numbers for reductions in relative poverty have been revised downwards and will need to be revised again for post April 2016. Reports by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, suggest any positive impacts that some may experience from UC will be lost amongst the overall welfare reform cuts across other benefits – risking "a decade of destitution". • Minimum **work allowances** were more generous than current earning disregards in "out of work benefit" improving work incentive for renters. But they still compared poorly with tax credit thresholds or permitted work earnings limits. But after the cuts from April 2016, some will get no earnings disregard at all.

ctd. on next page

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
from April 2013	*ctd. from previous page* **Universal Credit**	• **UC Maximum Amount**: a common system of allowances / additional elements: child disability, carers and limited capability and housing costs (for rent and help with mortgage interest) No pensioner or adult disability elements. • A single **65% taper** – 63% since Oct. 2017 - for earnings after disregards above their UC amount. Taper only applies to earnings – other income will be taken into account £ for £ - particularly affects those that only qualify for help with their rent. • Originally more generous **earnings disregards** aka work allowances, but lower than WTC thresholds, but significant cuts from April 2016 • Complexity in the treatment of those with Support for Mortgage Interest: help stops as soon as starting work, but for some access to a higher Work Allowance. Bad news for shared ownership • **Four levels of conditionality**: 1. Full job seeking (as in JSA) 2. Work preparation - as in ESA WRAC) 3. WFIs only - keeping contact with labour market - as in IS (lone parents) 4. No conditionality- as ESA SC and IS (carers) • **Work preparation** extended to those with children aged three and four. • **New "in work" conditionality** – to be treated and sanctioned as jobseekers until earnings exceed their conditionality threshold (typically 35x hourly NMW, but tailored for e.g. carers, lone parents. • **Mixed age couples** lose i.e. where one under/one over PC age. Will have to claim Universal Credit not Pension Credit (with no compensating pensioner element, or severe disability and restricted carers element) • **Payments of benefit** to one person, monthly in arrears after 7 waiting days (with few exceptions) – with up to 7 days to reach bank account payment will come up to 14 days and 1 month after date of claim. Payment will include all rent, but mortgage interest paid direct to lender. Alternative payment arrangements possible at DWP discretion but temporarily. • **Capital limit** of £16,000 – may stop some currently claiming tax credits. Many WTC claimants may switch to UC entirely made up of transitional addition. • 80% of claims to be made **online** – no paper claim forms	• **Local Authorities** are now to be able to share UC information and looked to as partners in claimant support. Registered social landlords will have to make arrangements to collect rent – claimant's rent accounts will no longer be credited. • **Sanctions –** the UC regime is largely in place, but UC will bring two new features: ○ *"in-work" sanctions* for people currently on WTC as per jobseekers until earnings exceed a conditionality threshold. ○ *Hardship Payments* will become repayable from future benefit, effectively a loan. • **Digital by default** – now digital by preference – may present difficulties to many claimants in making their claim especially if they live in rural areas with poor coverage and long journeys to e.g. Jobcentre Plus hot computers. • **A single monthly payment**: this may be problematic in more vulnerable households and where there is financial abuse. Increase in rent arrears are likely as claimants will be responsible for budgeting to pay their rent leading to increase in evictions. The well evidenced fact that paying money for children to the main carer is being ignored and so may not reach children nor be a valuable resource for escaping violent relationships. • **Alternative payment arrangements:** payments of housing costs to landlord, more frequent payments and split payments are possible but only on application and at discretion which may make previous good practise more difficult. • **Monthly assessments** mean changes of circumstances will be backdated to the beginning of the payment period – good news if an increase entitlement; bad news if it decreases/ loss of entitlement. • **Impacts on the self-employed:** Discouraging - after the first year in business, self-employed will be assessed as receiving a set threshold regardless of actual income/profit. Some chaotic effects for those with seasonal fluctuating earnings. An additional burden to report separately under DWP rules and HMRC ones. UC loses the tax credit advantage of a single light touch means test. ***Devolved Differences*** Universal Credit remains a UK wide benefit and is not e.g. devolved in the Scotland Bill. However, differences are likely to emerge: • **Scotland** will have specific UC powers to agree different payment arrangements and over the UC Housing Costs element. It will also have powers to add discretionary payments to any benefits it wishes – but exercising these powers come with a high-ticket price. • **Northern Ireland** has made a one-off agreement not to implement the bedroom tax and to be able to vary UC payment arrangements. The UC implementation timetable is still to be developed for the Province, as the Act was only passed in November 2015 • **Wales** is likely – as a minimum – to seek similar variations as N. Ireland.	• **Sanctions** – "sticks" – are much sharper. "In work" conditionality for the first time. No evidence has been offered for the effectiveness of the new sanctions regime, bar a desire to emphasise more conditionality and offer a balance to the carrots of UC. But the balance seems to have tilted as carrots are reduced and sticks sharpened Sanctions have been doubled in the last year with too many examples of vulnerable claimants being set up to fail by target driven staff. • Last resort is becoming routine, plunging many into destitution. Hardship Payments ability to protect the most vulnerable is limited by becoming repayable under UC, • The UC **disability gap** that results from either confusion between "sickness" and "disability" benefits or a genuine desire to target those with long term illnesses and disabilities, leads to real losses for disabled adults (including workers) and children. ○ A "single gateway" via the WCA misunderstands support for disability as the WCA is inappropriate for jobseekers, carers, lone parents and workers with disabilities. ○ A simplistic insistence on harmonisation of rates – by accident or design – halves the support for children with disabilities in the lowest income families (protecting the most vulnerable? • **Carers** continue to lose from existing real cuts in benefits, but those with disabilities lose from the unjustifiable provision that UC will only recognise extra costs of caring or –if passing the WCA- health issues, but not both. A poor reward for the huge sums saved to the Treasury. The extension of carers element to workers though is very welcome. ***Conclusion*** The original UC proposal contained much merit in its plans to unify and simplify benefits, iron out some of the barriers between "out of work" benefits and "in work" benefits. A balanced mixture of better financial incentives – to tackle the poverty trap – and reasoned conditionality was offered. Since the original proposals were published in opposition, cuts have considerably increased the complexity and reduced UC's ability to make much difference to the scandal of the "poverty trap" for low paid workers. As carrots wither and sticks sharpen, UC seems to have lost its original balance. While the treatment of people with disabilities, carers and those pensioners who come into UC's orbit is both bizarre and regressive. It is much to be hoped that the implementation difficulties and IT issues offer a chance to rethink: not only to progress in a more measured and realistic pace, but also a chance to consider the workings of the scheme and iron out any unintended consequences before they hit vulnerable people. As the UC stands, there is a risk that UC offers less a new modern vision for a social security system fit for the for the 21st century, and more a return to the pre-occupations of the Poor Law of the 19th.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Oct 2013	**All DWP Benefits** ***(May 2016 in NI)***	Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) introduced from 28 October 2013. All decisions must be considered for mandatory reconsideration within the DWP before an appeal can be made. Appeals lodged directly with the Tribunal Service and application for appeal must include a copy of the mandatory reconsideration notice. Intention that from October 2013 there will be a time limit of 4 weeks from lodging of appeal for DWP to produce appeal papers – but no time limit on MR process.	Biggest impact is for ESA claimants who cannot be paid assessment phase ESA until appeal is lodged. Options during MR period are to claim JSA (if they can manage system) or have no money. Once appeal is lodged, they will need fit note backdated to original decision date to get ESA backdated over MR period. Claimants given 'assurance call' inviting them to give further evidence to assist with MR but if there is delay providing evidence this will extend the MR period.	If fail to claim JSA, HB will also be suspended, and claimant will have to show evidence of 'nil income'. Risk that people will drop out of system or health will deteriorate as they try to cope with process. No actual financial savings for DWP as JSA paid is equivalent to ESA assessment phase and if don't claim JSA then ESA is backdated once appeal lodged. In fact, increased financial costs for DWP due to administration of opening and closing JSA claims during the MR period.
Oct 2013 to March 2014	**Jobseeker's Allowance** ***(Claimant Commitment)***	**Roll out of UC Claimant Commitment** Roll out of UC Claimant Commitment – very specific agreement which sets out exactly what job search and job preparation must be undertaken each week. Expectation within commitment that claimants can travel up to 90 minutes each way to a job.	Agreement is meant to be individually tailored and important that claimants make clear any restriction they have e.g. due to health problems or caring responsibilities. Relies on good relationship between adviser and claimant to ensure commitment is realistic and achievable	Only requirement in JSA Regs. is to be available for work and to actively seek work – sanctions should only be applied if fail to take reasonable action to find work. Under Reg. 18 of JSA Regs. this means taking more than 2 steps unless reasonable to only take 1 or 2. Fulfilling all tasks on 'claimant commitment' is not necessarily a requirement. However, concern that this will not be applied correctly. Likely to be standard expectations such as send CVs to a set number of companies, cold call a number of prospective employers. Useful actions?
Oct 2013 to July 2015	**Personal Independence Payment** ***(natural reassessments)*** *from Dec 2016 in NI* *(for updated description of PIP, see Part 2)*	***Natural reassessments rollout*** **October 2013** – Original plan was for all areas in GB to start a change of circs/renewals switch to PIP from October 2013, with some 600,000 switching by the start of the full managed rollout in October 2015. However only Capita areas started on time with most Atos areas only starting in Nov14 to July 15. Groups switching to PIP included: • young people coming up to 16. • renewals of DLA claims • DLA supersessions for e.g. change of circs. • self-selectors – those who chose to apply for PIP now if e.g. may do better or to get it over with.	Transitional regulations based on steady state DLA claims moving over to PIP have failed to deal with supersessions due to deterioration. A postcode lottery opened up – DLA claimants in areas where October 2013 changes were delayed would still apply for supersession of DLA with increases paid from date of request. But DLA claimants in areas where an application for PIP was required only received an increase 4 weeks after the PIP decision was made. Now this rollout is complete, **all** those whose deterioration in health requires a switch from DLA to PIP will be robbed of 6 to 7 weeks increase if they have become terminally ill or 17 to 20 weeks if a less life limiting deterioration. However, from 4.04.16 2016 terminally ill claimants are paid from either the last day of the payment period in which the PIP decision is made, or 1st Tuesday following the decision whichever is the sooner. Those already on PIP needing a supersession are paid any increase in full in the normal way.	This may have been an unintended consequence of a measure aimed at giving a level of protection for those in the later managed migration, where reassessments are not triggered by e.g. deterioration and the expectation is that far more people would lose than gain. Delaying the effective payment until after the PIP decision is made prevents any unfair recovery action and offers 4 weeks to adjust to lower income. However, this left the Government in the invidious position of robbing the dying and those with deteriorating long-term health issues. The consequences have been well represented to DWP, but there seemed no response other than a belated one for those with terminal illness. .
Jan 2014	**Jobseekers Allowance**	**3-month residence requirement** – all jobseekers, including returning British nationals, will need to have been resident for 3 months in the UK before they can claim JSA.	Will affect British nationals returning from work or study abroad as well as EEA nationals	
		6 months limit on entitlement to JSA for EEA jobseekers unless: • 'Compelling evidence' that they have a genuine prospect of work (GPoW); **and** • have worked in UK for at least a year before; **and** • have either met the minimum earnings threshold (equivalent to the NI lower earnings limit) for at least 3 months or it is accepted that work is 'genuine and effective'.	Once JSA taken away from EEA nationals after 6 months then that may take away their right to reside as a jobseeker thus removing entitlement to other benefits such as HB, CTC and CB.	Compelling evidence' of GPoW will be very hard to demonstrate – examples by DWP include that claimant has a job offer that is due to start in a few weeks! However, European legislation does not require that evidence is 'compelling'. Most EEA nationals will be unable to claim benefits after 6 months unless they can show right to reside through another route e.g. family member is worker, or have child of worker or former worker in education

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2014	**Housing Benefit**	No entitlement to HB for new EEA jobseekers (although existing HB claimants at point of change can continue to receive it	Particularly impacts on EEA nationals who have left family home due to domestic violence – as not be able to go to refuge as cannot claim HB (unless another route to right to reside and can claim e.g. IS or ESA.	EEA jobseeker's who have been on JSA since prior to April 2014 need to be very wary of breaking claim as they will be unable to reclaim HB if they make new claim for JSA.
		LHA to rise by lowest of 30% or 1% - with exceptions if has been substantial increase in market rent (list of exceptions can be found in [SI 2978/2013](SI 2978/2013))	Claimants whose rent was previously within the LHA may find any rent increase takes them outside leaving them with a shortfall to meet. Increased demand on the DHP budget.	May help objective of keeping private rents under control, but it also likely to mean more and more private landlords are unwilling to accept claimants on benefit.
	Jobseeker's Allowance ***new conditionality***	New conditionality including: • Day One work search • English language requirement • Quarterly work search interviews • Weekly job search reviews/signing on	Increased expectations likely to mean increased sanctions if claimant fails to adhere to regime.	Again, concern as to whether support will be effective in achieving employment for claimant. Current work programme has not achieved success in getting claimants into long-term work
	Income Support ***(lone parents)***	Increased conditionality once child reaches 3 including – expected to carry out work-related activity in addition to WFIs	Increased level of sanctions (lower level as opposed to lowest level) as failure to carry out work-related activity mean loss of whole personal allowance and for a longer period. Again, increased expectations likely to increase sanctions (as with doubling of ESA sanctions in last year)	Concern as to whether work-related activity required be genuinely effective and supportive and how much say they claimant will have to negotiate over suitability.
	Child Tax Credit	Need to inform HMRC by 31st August if a qualifying young person stays in education or comes off claim	Failure to do so will result in child being removed from the claim. Loss of income into the household if claimant informs after one month.	People won't know that they have to specifically do this as HMRC have not advertised this new change.
	Working & Child Tax Credits	All decisions must go to mandatory reconsideration within HMRC before an appeal can be made. Appeals lodged directly with the Tribunal Service and application for appeal must include a copy of the mandatory reconsideration notice.	Adds another layer to tax credit appeals which are already very drawn out.	HMRC operate very strict time limits and may be very unwilling to accept a late MR request. Option to go straight to late appeal where decision is made by an independent Judge is taken away.
May 2014	**Carers Allowance**	Earnings limit increased to £102	Potential extra income for carers who also work. But negligible increase and still makes it difficult for carers who want to do some work	Carers working over 16 hours can claim WTC, but commercial rate rules for WTC remunerative work, may mean over CA earnings limit.
Oct 2014	**JSA and ESA** ***(waiting days)***	Waiting days at start of claim extended to 7 days, for both types of ESA and JSA unless either: • the claimant has had a linking claim to another benefit within the last 12 weeks, including JSA, ESA, Income Support and Carer's Allowance. • is a JSA claimants who is under 18 years old and in severe hardship; or • is an ESA claimant who is terminally ill.	Period without benefit will cause hardship and likely impede job seeking. Will raise anxieties about taking short-term job as a claimant will have to serve waiting days again if outside linking period. May deter people from making claim because they know no benefit for 7 days but will still have to serve once make claim.	Government say short-term benefit advances will be available, but these are repayable and on current experience extremely difficult to get. Delay in processing JSA/ESA claim may impact on HB claim although there are no waiting days for that. Not clear if passporting from income-related benefits will happen during waiting period so claimants on means-tested benefits may need to submit HB claim separately from JSA/ESA claim. Intention is to introduce waiting period for UC – which could mean that no housing costs or money for children will be paid for 7 days either.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2015	**All benefits**	New overall benefits cap to put ceiling on all benefits (except JSA, UC for jobseekers, Housing Benefit and Retirement Pensions). Set at: • £119.5bn in 2015-2016; • £122.0bn in 2016-2017; • £124.6bn in 2017-2018; • £126.7bn in 2018-2019. Another year of uprating based on CPI with many benefits going up by 1% for the third year running	Unclear what the government will do if the cap is at risk of being breached. The third year of 1% brings the real cut often to the poorest in absolute poverty to 4%. Actual cuts experienced by those affected – 60% who are in work - may be significantly higher due to higher inflation rates for the absolute basics – food, fuel and shelter, exacerbated by a poorly evidenced trigger-happy sanctions culture, Stated protection for disabilities and carers continues to be only partial only partial as the larger part of their benefit will be 1% restricted. The very different approaches in pension age means that there is a real danger that – US style - "social security" is only offered to older claimants, with a new – but just as grudging - Poor Law for the rest.	Recent reports suggest the rising costs of ESA put the cap at risk. The stated reason for the 1% limit is to align benefit increases with the current low growth in earnings – why, the Government, asks, should claimants do better than those in work (ignoring that many are both?). A more transparent and fair approach would be to link benefits permanently to earnings rises. Long term it would stop claimants being left behind at 1960s subsistence rates as the economy recovers. Proposals to extend the 1% limit for a further 2 years are a targeted £3 billion million tax on the poorest (both in and out of work). And as earnings pick up, the Poor Law "lesser eligibility" justification becomes less convincing. Even an open link to earnings would beg the question as to whether those in absolute poverty have any belt to tighten. Something that has been fairly addressed for Retirement Pension via the "triple lock" guarantee.
Aug 2015	**Universal Credit** ***(waiting days)*** ***NB: abolished from Feb 2018***	Waiting days at start of claim of 7 days except if: • terminally ill • recent victim of domestic violence • care leavers. • aged 16 or 17 without parental support. • recent prisoner • those moving on and off UC due to earnings within a 6-month period	Much higher potential impact than waiting days for ESA and JSA as 7 days money could be very large amount, if this includes money for children, housing costs, childcare etc. Likely to cause severe hardship to children as well in households where insufficient funds for food, heating etc. Tenants could also be at risk of possession proceedings if unable to pay rent.	Short term advances may be available but unclear how easy these will be to get and no right of appeal as discretionary. However, these are repayable over the next 6 months carrying forward hardship.
Sept 2015	**Winter Fuel Payments**	Will not be paid to pensioners abroad who live in a country with average winter temperature higher than warmest region of UK.	Retired British people living in Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, Portugal or Spain will be £200 or £300 worse off a year.	Will impact on pensioners who rely solely on their State Pension and have no other income.
Nov 2015	**Tax Credits**	**Tax Credit overpayments recovery:** • Recovery increasingly outsourced to private debt recovery agencies. • Overpayments of WTC can be recovered from CTC and vice versa.	• The worry is that detaching recovery from HMRC may reduce the ability to take into account extenuating circumstances and increase the amount of overpayment. There may also be a temptation to seek the easiest recovery - e.g., an overpayment caused by misreporting by a now absent working partner may fall on the innocent partner and children	

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis

Nov 2015	**Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Act, 2015**	The Act has now been passed into law to implement changes similar to the Welfare Reform Act 2012. Specific "mitigations" were agreed via £345 million welfare supplementary payments (WSP) over 4 years:
		• **Abolition of ESA in Youth** – from 7.02.16
		• **MRs and direct appeals** – from 23.05.16
		• **Benefits cap** – from 31.05.16 – DHPs and WSPs
		• **PIP** starts for new claims from 20.06.16 and for natural reassessment and "invitations" to claim from 12.16: WSP "mitigations" if:
		  ○ if lose DLA on transfer to PIP until appeal,
		  ○ top if score 4pts to a standard rate
		  ○ a one year run on for CA if DLA stops.
		• Abolition of *HB Family Premium* and *reduction in HB backdating* from 5.09.16
		• **Discretionary Social Fund** becomes *Financial Support* from 31.10.16 with
		  ○ *Discretionary Support* replacing CCGs and Crisis Loans (emergencies)
		  ○ Advance Payments when awaiting first benefit.
		• **Time limiting of ESA** from 28.11.16. WSP 12 months
		• **Eligibility to claim IS** - age of youngest child reduced from 7 to 5 from 16.01.17.
		• **Bedroom Tax** – introduced from 20.02.17.
		• **Universal Credit** Roll out of Full-Service UC 25.09.17 to Sept 18. NI mitigations include:
		  ○ UC payment arrangements: more frequent, easier rent direct to landlord
		  ○ Support if losing on switch from WTC to UC
		  ○ helpline and advice sector resources re UC & sanctions and contingency fund if UC delayed.
			The changes and impacts will be largely as described in the relevant parts of the rest of this table. The extent of the cuts in N. Ireland can be seen in the financial penalty being imposed on the Assembly for not passing the act - £115m. pa. However, the NI Executive will be able to fund additional discretionary help.
			Impacts in N. Ireland as in many parts of Wales, Scotland and former industrial areas in England may be exacerbated by a higher % of people with long-term limiting illnesses and higher current claim rates.
			The discretionary funding package largely financed out of the NI Executive budget will make a significant difference to many affected and to capacity in the advice sector.
			From a slow start it is expected that it will be fast paced ahead, with the UK Government taking back regulation making powers until December 2016, to then be returned to the NI Assembly and Department of Social Development in NI.
			The nominal complete devolution of social security powers to Belfast is constrained by the norm that N>Ireland matches UK provision exactly and normally rubber stamps changes in UK law into the NI system. But perhaps a little delayed this time.
			This does mean that the changes will now land in people's lives at a much more dizzying rate than in the rest of the UK, with an impact on the ability to tolerate the changes and to adapt.
				See the rest of the chart for analysis of the individual changes. The "mitigations" both conceded by the UK Government and funded largely by the NI Executive will cushion the impact.
				In contrast to Westminster, where opposition to cuts has been a bit muted – based on assessment of political chances of success, opposition to the cuts has been a central issue and has nearly collapsed of the Good Friday agreement.
				The final push has involved extremely speedy ratifications in Westminster and direct rule for 2016 on social security matters only to get the changes implemented.
				A salutary reminder to the rest of the UK about what we have accepted since 2012 and how mitigations that seem acceptable to the UK Government under pressure on wider constitutional pressures could have made a significant difference.

Mar 2016	**Scotland Act**	The Act was given Royal Assent on 24.03.2016 implementing the Smith Commission and linked financial agreement. This devolves some 40% of benefits spending to the Scottish Parliament including: • **full control** over disability, carers and industrial injuries benefits and the regulated social Fund. • **UC** vary UC payment frequency, rent direct and split payments and housing costs element. • **top ups** to any reserved benefits • **short term discretionary** powers for top up to e.g., support for prisoners or DHPs. • **new benefit**s in devolved areas • own **employment programmes**	After much negotiation around both the Bill and underlying financial framework, the Scotland Bill is on its way to enactment with the blessings of all parties. It essentially delivers on that part of the Smith Commission agreement and has approval – to varying degrees of enthusiasm – from all parties. The potential impact is significant. However, unlike N. Ireland where the shape of devolved differences is all part of a one-off agreement, substantial powers are transferred to the Scottish Parliament, for an ongoing debate about what to do with them. Consultations are afoot with both opportunities and challenges: one option might be to have a more generous PIP or return to DLA. Another siren voice might be to roll that pot over to social work departments for assessment there… It will be "watch this space" and future updates will capture the changes	Opposition to social security cuts in Westminster has been muted by the depressing calculation of what might be a politically unpopular cause, but a change on Working Tax Credit. By contrast, welfare cuts have been a significant factor in Scottish politics. It seems there may be a less means spirited, kinder consensus in Holyrood; opposition to cuts is seen as more a vote winner than loser. But the devil will be in the price tag. So far Scottish differentiation – while popular – has come relatively cheap. More substantial new initiatives or mitigations of cuts would come with bigger price tags. It is likely that ideas and proposals around what to do with the new powers will be an important part of party manifestos in the May 2016 Elections and differences grow over time as a new Scottish Parliament takes devolved powers forward.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Oct 2015 to March 2019 ***from Dec 2016 in N. Ireland***	**Personal Independence Payment** ***(full rollout)***	***Full rollout of switch from DLA to PIP*** From October 2015, a managed switch of remaining working age DLA claimants who were under 65 as at 8th April 2015, began across Great Britain. However, Northern Ireland only began with new PIP claims in June 2016, but started DLA to PIP switches via both "natural re-assessments" and managed "invitations" from December 2016. **Process involves: -** • claimant receives an invitation letter to claim PIP at some point between October 2015 and October 2017 • A time limit to respond – if claimant does not do so within 4 weeks, DLA is ***suspended*** unless good cause. Once PIP is claimed DLA is restored. • If PIP not claimed within 4 weeks of suspension, then DLA is ***terminated***. Can start a new PIP claim thereafter, but no ongoing DLA payment – nor premiums – until PIP decision. • From then on. claim process is exactly as for any other new PIP claim, with no reference to past DLA information, but claimant can ask for copies. • New PIP decision will take effect four weeks after it is made for people who have applied in time and retained DLA. This is to give "a measure of transitional protection to enable claimants to adjust to their new rate of benefit". • Original timetable was for last invitations to go out by October 2017, with last DLA to PIP decisions made by March 2018 and the end of "working age" DLA. • This has now been extended for another year with completion now due by March 2019	Many may not realise that regardless of how long their DLA claim was due to run for, they must start a PIP claim to replace it once "invited". The uncertain, vulnerable or chaotic may miss the deadlines and be left without DLA or related premiums in means tested benefit for some months – even if these are eventually restored after a PIP award. **Likely winners and losers** Once in the process, eventual outcome will depend on the PIP decision. Overall the DWP are expecting: • 29% to get more under PIP than under DLA. • 29% to get less PIP than under DLA. • 26% to get no PIP at all. • only 16% likely to get the same under PIP as under DLA New descriptors offer potential winners and losers. As with ESA, those with less easily definable difficulties or lesser physical needs may be hit: • criteria for Enhanced Mobility is 20m rather than c.50m of DLA Mobility – some 600,000 likely to lose Higher Mobility mostly down to Standard Rate – a loss of £35 income and access to Motability. Motability were expecting a 33% drop in customers, but early indications show this is nearer 45% • some 200,000 DLA Lower Mobility claimants may score enough points for PIP Enhanced Mobility for the first time. • But after the arrival of people dropping down from DLA Higher Mobility, some 600,000 will come off DLA Lower Mobility. This comes mainly from quietly diverting those with mental health issues away from mainstream "following and planning" descriptors towards lower scoring "psychological distress" ones", a discrimination made overt – and unlawful - in March 2017 • only 1pt for DLA Care supervision for risk of danger (e.g. epilepsy diabetes, poorly controlled asthma, psychotic episodes). Will need to link supervision issues to specific daily living activities. • the DLA 'cooking test" (for lower Care) still attracts points, but not enough on its own for an award. Some may lose DLA Lower Care, but others may find it easier to find PIP points than they would have done to get to DLA Middle Care • increased recognition of aids and appliances may help physically disabled people who manage with these. Government plans to downgrade adaption descriptors 4b and 6b (washing and dressing) from 2pts to 1 pt. aimed to save £1.2 billion a year. Their abandonment and commitments to no new cuts is v. welcome, but then came the March 2017 "clarifications" now ruled unlawful. • But some activities - communication, engaging with others and budgeting decisions - may help many with prompting needs e.g. learning difficulties, autism, sensory impairment & mental health.	**This is not a migration**. The DWP emphasise is that this is *"a fresh assessment for a new benefit with different criteria"*. This absolves DWP from: • **Engaging with DLA claimants**: PIP is an opt in process, - claimants have to actively start a PIP claim and many may fail to do so either at all or in time. "You can't make people claim" shrugs DWP. • **Reviewing DLA records**: e.g. to identify vulnerable claimants, avoid accidental disclosure of harmful information, or claimants where current evidence already robustly indicates a PIP award. • **Transitional protection**: There is no TP apart from a run on for 4 weeks, which for many has meant losses in benefit. Yet all the above were on offer in the switch from Incapacity Benefit to ESA, even though ESA was a new benefit with a new health assessment. That said it's not all bad news: • some claimants can reasonably hope to get more out of PIP than under DLA. • the lived experience so far of PIP assessments was at the early stage overall much better than ESA ones. ***Other concerns include:*** • **Fear of the re-assessment process** – as much as the outcome - may cause serious anxiety, stress and self-harm among claimants, as with the switch to ESA, compounded by any negative past experiences of ESA re-assessment. DLA may not be basic income, but for many it makes the difference between "living and merely existing" – and the thought of losing it may be intolerable. • **Young people in transition** will face extra uncertainty as they move to PIP – and potential crucial losses on e.g. mobility (impacting on education / transport). Dependent young people will continue to get UC child disability elements, albeit reduced. But the absence of adult disability elements may sharpen a drop when switching to own claim and add barriers to work. • **The 16% of DLA claimants in paid work** may find loss of Mobility particularly difficult, while personal independence and work incentives are unlikely to be supported by UC's disability confusion / cuts. • **Changes to disability premiums and elements:** Any losses from the switch from DLA to PIP will be compounded by the abandonment of adult disability elements and the halving of child disability elements within Universal Credit. UC losses can be worth as much / more than the PIP ones itself. Is targeting disabled people on the lowest incomes – including children - *"protecting the most vulnerable"* or *"balancing the books on the backs of the working poor and disabled"?*

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Feb 2016	**ESA in Youth** ***(N. Ireland)***	• ESA in Youth is abolished for new claims from 7th February (was abolished	See entry in Part 1 for April 2012	See entry in Part 1 for April 2012
April 2016 to April 2020	**Benefits Freeze**	• A freeze on "working age" benefits - i.e. no uprating of benefits or tax credits. except for protected elements (e.g. disability, carers and ESA support component) • A freeze on LHA allowances under HB **Cuts to claimants: £4 billion**	Although protected elements will go up by CPI, this will not apply to the main part of that person's benefit e.g. an ESA/IS personal allowances for the unwell or carers, so real cuts persist but at a slightly lower rate. No real difference in 2016 as there have been no CPI increases anyway. Since then, the CPI has increased, latest figures for Feb 18 is 2.7% causing a widening gap. LHA freeze will further reduce the proportion of private sector rentals that are affordable and available to HB claimants - in or out of work. While landlords are increasingly reluctant to rent to HB claimants.	A continuation of stealth cuts achieved by simply not increasing benefits by inflation. These follow year on year real cuts since 2011 to subsistence rates set in the 1960s - a 5% real cut to date. Based on the false premise that the poorest taxpayers caused the budget deficit rather than the richest.
April 2016	**Tax Credits**	**Reduction in increased income disregard:** The amount of any increase in income during a tax year that will be ignored in calculating tax credit entitlement in the next is reduced from £5,000 to £2,500. **Cut by 2020: £110 million**	This cut remains, and the result is likely to be a return to the serious overpayment problems and unpredictability of tax credits early years, which left many early claimants wishing they had never claimed tax credits.	This disregard had two purposes, to: • build in incentive to increase hours/pay rate in a tax year a • reduce occurrence of overpayments within a tax year. DWP claim to have learned from TC teething problems, but HMRC are now condemned to repeat history
	Support for Mortgage Interest	**Waiting period** for help with mortgage interest returns to 39 weeks rather than the present 13 weeks in many cases. Capital limits remain at the higher rate of £200,000.	This combined with the loss of linking rule and zero earnings rule (in universal credit only) means that if someone just does a very small amount of work, they will have to wait another 9 months for help.	Given increase of conditionality it seems likely that homeowners will have to choose between being sanctioned or possibly losing their home. Will people still be insured for the full 39 weeks? The original extension was justified on the basis of plenty of notice to allow people to adjust their insurance cover.
	Universal Credit *for full & updated description of UC, see under Part 1)*	**Childcare element** can now cover 85% of eligible costs	More support for working parents but upper limits will still be restrictive for parents with a number of children in childcare.	Rollout process and timetable still very unclear and liable to change
		Work allowances are cut: removed completely for those without children or disabilities, and reduced for those with children or disabilities. There are now 2 rates only in each band:	Initially this will affect only 1,600 current UC claimants in paid work with sudden drops in their UC entitlement – in time this will take in all 2.5 million Working Tax Credit claimants, only some of whom will get transitional protection at the point of change. Big reduction in work incentive for those without children or disabilities – UC will start to be withdrawn from the very first earnings	Welfare reform's claims to "make work pay" take a severe hit. The abandoned cut to Working Tax Credit hits UC claimants in work in full, from April 2016. Work colleagues on WTC will join them in time, with only a minority getting any transitional protection, and some may lose it. Welcome increases in the NMW may help some – but by no means all – to recover some of these losses. Just increasing the NMW alone would have eventually yielded significant savings; but savings early hits "strivers" hard.
	JSA & Universal Credit	***Jobseeker support and conditionality*** • increased JobCentre Plus support • JSA support and conditionality to extend to 1.3 million claimants. • Weekly attendance at JobCentres in first 3 months • Help to Work Programme - currently for long - term claimants to be brought forward. • A new Work and Health Programme to replace the Work Programme / Work Choice • Spending on Access to Work will rise.	Added requirements to attend adds costs to claimants and heightened risks of sanctions. The new Work and Health Programme is to come in as current contracts expire and promises a more effective support and better outcomes. The Work and Health Programme covers England and Wales and is delivered by different providers across the regions. There may be real gains from any positive support offered if it is appropriate and relevant. The Work Programme developed an early reputation as being less effective than doing nothing, so time will tell if new arrangements do better.	Research suggests that the vast majority of claimants desperately want work and would welcome positive support to help secure it. The concerns are whether: • that support is effective? Earlier reviews of the Work Programme concluded it was less effective than doing nothing and it would have been cheaper and more effective to just let jobseekers get on with it. • the obsession with conditionality and summary / disproportionate sanctions helps the effectiveness of good support? The policy is not evidence-based and appears out of control; last resort has too often become first.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2016	Housing Benefit *(Sept 2016 in NI)*	**Family Premium abolished**: where 1st born after April 2016 and all new HB claims post 04/16	This cut hits families in and out of work coming a year before the abolition of CTC family element and UC additions for the first child. Those passported on to HB will be unaffected, but those who are not – e.g. on contributory benefits or "in work" may see a loss of £10 a week	A bizarre punishment of children that seems to target the Chancellor's erstwhile favoured strivers
		Restrictions on HB abroad: HB will be restricted to 4 weeks during temporary absences if tenant is abroad	This replaces the current period of 13 weeks. The same issues for people with disabilities that led to a concession on PIP also apply to HB. Also, an issue for many retired people.	An understanding that people with disabilities might need a longer period led to this proposal not being adopted for PIP and it seems odd not to have allowed an exception under HB
		Backdating limited to 1 month: Lines up with Universal Credit, replacing 3 months after pension age and 6 months working age – if "good cause"	A small saving, but backdating with good cause – can be a major help to people who may have not been able to complete a claim or have a retrospective recovery of HB on loss of a passported benefit, even when otherwise entitled to HB	A small cut that may cause serious hardship to vulnerable claimants who are not well placed to meet "claimant responsibilities". May have an impact on arrears especially in supported housing.
	"New Style"" State Retirement Pension	Pensions Act 2014 introduces new single tier State Retirement Pension for those reaching State Pension Age from 6th April 2016. This new State Pension (nSP) will combine: • the former State Retirement Pension • Additional State Pension (i.e. SERPS, Second State Pension) • abolition of PC (Savings Credit) for those claiming the nSP see under PC below. The full pension will be start at £155.65, some 5p above the standard amount in PC (Guarantee). However, reductions will apply for any years of NI at "contracted out" rates. 35 years NI (with the abolition of the "contracted out" NI rate) for full pension and minimum of 10 years for any pension.	• Simplifies RP and reduces gender inequalities (from old NI contribution conditions and differential accumulation of earnings related second pensions). • A comparison will be made with entitlement under the old system and the higher amount will be paid. • But will be some years before all with 35 years get full single tier rate – e.g. due to protection for pension already accrued and reductions for time contracted out. • Less means testing as new combined pension rate would be above basic PC appropriate amount and no savings credit – PC claims cut by 50%. But PC remains especially for disability, carers, the inclusion of Housing Credit and child allowances. Increases incentive for saving	Idea widely seen as having merit, but issues: • Transitional rules minimise unfairness to SERPS/S2P pensioners along with reductions for "contracted out" years while in works/private schemes, but make system harder to understand. • New system will not cost more and over time will cost less – so while some will be better off, others would have received more if the current system continued This might apply to people who could build up higher pensions through S2P and people expecting to be able to use partner's contributions. • Not available to people who reach SPA before 6 April 2016. • PC Guarantee Credit top up still available, but note changes below.
	Pension Credit	• New standard rate of £155.60 from April 2016 • PC Savings Credit will not apply to people claiming the new nSP. • SC can still be added to PC claims after 04/16 to those on the 'basic State Pension' (bSP) who then reach 65. • Savings Credit continues - with real cuts - for those on the bSP. This funds any increases above CPI when Guarantee Credit matches the cash increase in "old style" SRP. • PC will only be paid for up to 4 weeks for those outside UK.	PC will not disappear because of the full rate of single tier pension being higher than PC, e.g. where severe disability /carers addition applies or couple. Those with the new single pension income just taking them over PC may lose out considerably from no longer being passported through to HB or other means tested benefits (especially if savings exceed £16,000) Savings Credit has been withering on the vine for some years with a view to its eventual merger into the new single tier SRP. Plans have been eased, but still some potential losses of up to £17pw.	The rate is set at 5p below the new pension, but reports of the end of PC are exaggerated. Numbers will fall by 50% but • those getting additions may still need a PC top up. • many who are do not get additions may return to PC when PC becomes PC+ with added allowances for rent and dependent children

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
May 2016 to Dec 2018 ***from Sep 2017 to Dec 2018 in N.Ireland***	**Universal Credit** ***(transition to Full Service in GB)*** ***(Rollout of Full Service UC in N. Ireland)***	***Rollout of full UC Digital Service.*** • Starting from the three pilots in Southwark Sutton and Croydon • A very slow rollout jobcentre area by area rather than whole local authorities, with an initial focus on the October 2013 pilot areas • Starting at 5 JC+ offices a month, reaching 50+ offices a month in 2018 • Further details at www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service And for N. Ireland at: https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universal-credit • Roll out for new claims now set to be completed by December 2018 • After which "managed migration" starts in July 2019 for those still on "legacy benefits" to be completed by March 2022 *(For a full updated description of UC see entry in Part 1 for April 2013 – when the first UC claim was taken.* *NB. N. Ireland will **not** go through a Gateway / Live Service stage. UC will come in as full Service)*	Unclear whether the digital service will be fit for purpose – currently under 1,000 claimants. Also, not clear how claimants will be migrated from the current 'live service' to the 'digital service'. Conditionality may well be managed much more digitally… As a JC+ area starts implementing the full Digital Service there will be an end to gateway conditions and all new claims for legacy benefits will now be for UC. However no new Gateway UC claims are being taken with effect from 1st January 2018. The original plan to open up UC to "mixed age" pensioner couples – i.e. one over and one under UC age as Full Service rolled out has been postponed, to join the other UC related changes to PC at some point after July 2019. The early tendency for UC to cause destitution on first contact has improved significantly after the November budget changes being implemented in early 2018 – see below. But the dogmatic insistence on a month in arrears still condemns claimants to live below the minimum the law says they need to live on for up to 12 months. The next problem is the arrival of Full-Service UC significantly increases the rate of "natural migration" through change of circumstances. Quite deliberately – and unusually in such benefit changes – there is no transitional protection at all. While some will gain from UC undoubtedly and be seeking advice about the earliest smooth transition, other stand to lose considerably. And that makes it all the more important for information on when people do actually need to make an unprotected migration to be correct. And some 18 months on, DWP staff and stakeholders in areas due to switch in coming months are being routinely misinformed. The basic rule is simple enough: *"Would that change of circumstances have required a new claim under the legacy benefits system?"* If yes, then it is probably UC, if no it's a change within a legacy benefit claim Simples! See the Newcastle Welfare Rights handy chart – available here - for some specific and common changes of circumstances. r confusing Other issues that seem systemic include: • failure to inform people about bringing proof of housing costs to their initial interview, causing the Housing Costs Element to be missing from the first payment. • "solving" the arrears problems of UC's making by only offering unaffordable deductions for arrears to landlords. • failures on the linked, but separate, "New Style" ESA claims • wrongly requiring people migrating over from Ir-ESA to undergo a WCA. • not even understanding the issue around protection of the terminally ill from potentially harmful information. It is the claimant's responsibility to know they are dying… • sudden changes in UC payments if real time earnings information is out of sync with pay received or fluctuating earnings. • real hard cases from the UC disability gaps / confusion, ironically hitting disabled workers and carers hard.	This sees the gradual arrival of the full Universal Credit – now in a much more cuts driven, meanness benefit mode than originally envisaged. UC aims to save £5 billion which was never envisaged in the early plans. The process of opening up to all new claims was originally due to be completed by June 2014, so once rolled out UC will be 4 years late. The delay of any "managed migration" originally due to start after June 2014 - but now not until July 2019 - see separate entry below - means that the DWP expect most switches to UC to be by "natural migration" rather than "managed". This will mean the majority of claimants will ***not*** get any transitional protection to cushion any losses from switching to UC. Already a major concern for those with disabilities, this has now become a big issue for many low-income workers following the April 2016 cuts. During this period those hardest hit by having made a new claim to UC in a "Gateway area" can at least end their UC claim and reclaim a "legacy benefit", if that is a viable option for them. While all will have to switch to UC eventually, the key if you lose out – and some will lose out considerably – is to hang on until the DWP are set up to offer honest, protected "Managed Migrations". It is hard to know how many are "winners" and how many are "losers" in the UC sum, as the DWP refused any update to their initial - and then revised downwards - projections given to Parliament. That may be sailing rather dangerously close to the edges of the Civil Service code and contempt – and MPs may want the correct information. UC may well still offer really positive and transformational case studies drawn mainly from experiences from those jobseekers who have indeed received some better support and got with the system or benefitted from UC's remaining elements of greater generosity on starting work. However, experience from NAWRA members in the as yet minority of areas that have become full Service is that the gaps in UC provision, thought or preparedness remain jaw-dropping. There may well be some merit in building confidence and "claimant responsibility", but the gaps in for those who are a long way from the labour market and the defenestration of both baby and bathwater in the wild new thinking of doing benefits differently, mean that the Department may be rather too freely abandoning their own responsibilities to run a safe and thought through UC that is fit for purpose as our new "safety net" benefit.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
May 2016	**Introduction of MRs and Appeal changes** ***(N. Ireland)***	From 23rd May, claimants or advisers challenging a benefits decision must: • First seek a Mandatory Reconsideration of the decision, before a right of appeal • Any appeals then "directly lodged" with The Appeals Service in Belfast, with the MR Notice	See entry in Part 1 dated October 2013	See entry in Part 1 dated October 2013
	Benefit Cap ***(N. Ireland)***	From 31st May 2016, the Benefits Cap is introduced in N. Ireland, as per rest of UK in The cap is set at the original £350 single and £500 couple rate	See entry for rest of UK dated April 2013 There is a range of exceptions as per rest of UK as well as some N. Ireland specific mitigations	See entry for rest of UK dated April 2013
June 2016	**PIP** ***(N. Ireland)***	From 20th June 2016 PIP replaces DLA for new claims for 16- to 64-year-olds in N. Ireland	See entry – in part 1 - for rest of UK, dated April / June 2013	See entry – in part 1 - for rest of UK, dated April / June 2013
Sept 2016	**HB** ***(N. Ireland)***	From 5th September: • HB Family Premium abolished for new claims. • Backdating reduced from 6 months to 1 month	See entry – in Part 2 – for rest of UK – dated April 2016	See entry – in Part 2 – for rest of UK – dated April 2016
Oct 2016	**Social Fund** ***(N. Ireland)***	From 31st October the "discretionary social fund is replaced by: • **Discretionary Support:** a mix of grants and loans to replace CCGs and Crisis loans (apart from advance s of benefit claims) • **Short Term Benefit Advances:** replacing Crisis Loans (awaiting first benefits payment)	See entry in Part 1 – for rest of UK, dated April 2013 As with Scotland and Wales, N. Ireland is keeping to a single scheme across the Province, rather than localizing to local councils as in England. However, unlike the Scottish Welfare Fund or the Discretionary Assistance Fund in Wales, the NI Discretionary Support will retain loans rather than be all grants based.	See entry in Part 1 – for rest of UK, dated April 2013
Nov 2016	**Benefits Cap**	The maximum amount a household can receive in income on benefits are reduced – across the UK - from current £26,000 couples and lone parents and £18,200 singles to a two tier: • in Greater London £23,000 couples/LPs, and £15,410 singles • outside Greater London £20,000 couples/ LPs and £13,400 singles. • **Cut by 2020: £495 million**	The Cap only previously affected less than 1% of claimants but is now set to rise to nearer 4%. While impacts will continue to be felt most in London and the southeast, the new lower rates outside the capital, will mean areas unused to capping on any large scale experiencing greater pressures on rent arrears, homelessness, social cost of disruption etc. The £20,000 cap will affect any household with 3 or more children, even in low rent areas or in social housing. Statistics show that ¾ of those capped are as a result of the lower caps introduced in Nov 2016	It was a moot point whether the original cap actually saved anything as savings to the DWP budget may have been more than offset by costs elsewhere. In contrast to the general freeze, the Cap takes a lot of money from a few people. Its purpose may be less fiscal and more political: to foster resentment and a sense of grievance against claimants to win public support for far more lucrative welfare cuts elsewhere. See http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/revised-benefit-cap-cpag-ds-and-others-v-secretary-state-work-and-pensions for information on legal challenges to the benefit cap
Nov 2016	**ESA** ***(N. Ireland)***	Contributory ESA (including ESA in Youth) is retrospectively time limited to 365 days, meaning time limits or some awards stopping) **Exceptions** for any days in the Support Group. **Mitigation:** Those in the WRAG who are affected will receive an ongoing payment via a Supplementary Payment for 1 year after end of ESA.	See entry - in Part 1 - for rest of UK -, dated April 2012	See entry - in Part 1 - for rest of UK -, dated April 2012

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Dec 2016 to Mar 2020	**DLA to PIP and "mitigations"** ***(N. Ireland)***	Both natural re-assessments – *see entry for Oct 2013* – and the "invitation" process to all working age DLA claimants – *see entry for Oct 2015* - begin from December 2016 in N. Ireland. However, extra mitigations are available until March 2020 for those losing out in the switch from DLA to PIP in N. Ireland. A ***PIP Supplementary Payment***: • pending appeal • for 75% of the difference between DLA and a lower PIP for up to 1 year • if you score between 4 and 7 points but have a NI conflict related disability illness Provision also includes: • A Supplementary Payment to cover lost DLA related premiums for up to a year. • A ***Carers Supplementary Payment*** for those losing Carers Allowance or carers premium if DLA lost after a PIP assessment	These "mitigations" will ease the disruption to the many who may experience a loss of disability benefit only to have them restored and backdated on appeal. Not only do these give some form of transitional protection to the income of the person with disabilities, but may be vital in enabling a carer to continue being able to offer their support. This still leaves the risk of permanent losses for carers who, in losing their right to claim Income Support are forced into an early, unprotected "natural migration" to UC. On UC carers with health problems will find there are no disability premiums for them and that neither can they have both "limited capability" components and a carers element, unlike ESA.	If it's good enough for N. Ireland, why is it not good enough for the rest of the UK? The Government when pushed were willing to sign up to the deal, so might they respond to similar pressure elsewhere. That said the extra cost of these provisions is largely to come from the devolved budget. While in name a totally separate system, the convention has been that N. Ireland follows the mainland UK precedent and accepts and approves any changes routinely. But this time it became entangled in the barriers to progress for devolved Government and the Welfare Reform (N. Ireland) Act was blocked. The "mitigations" are part of a one-off agreement – time limited to 2020 – to unblock the Welfare Reform Bill and to restart the NI Assembly and devolved Government. Scotland has powers both to offer similar mitigating supplements or to go further and remove the need for mitigations by a better dispensation on disability and carers benefits long term.
Jan 2017	**Income Support** ***(N. Ireland)***	Eligibility based on youngest child – child must now be under 5, not under 7	See entry in Part 1 for rest of UK, dated May 2012	See entry in Part 1 for rest of UK, dated May 2012
Feb 2017	**Bedroom Tax** ***(N. Ireland)***	The bedroom tax applies in N. Ireland from 20.02.17	See the entry in Part 1 for April 2013	See entry in Part 1 for April 2013
March 2017 to Jan 2018	**PIP** ***Descriptors & Mental Health discrimination***	Following two favourable UT decisions changes were made to PIP daily living descriptor 3 and mobility activity 1. • The first meant that any help to do with medication could only attract one point regardless of how long it took. • The second meant those who had difficulty following journeys due to psychological distress could not be awarded points under mobility activity. However, in Dec 17 the High Court ruled the changes to the regulations for mobility activity 1, planning and following journeys where illegal and the Government accepted this in January 2018 and that the decision in MH that psychological distress can count should now be applied. The plan is to draw up new Guidance by Summer 2018 upon which to base all subsequent decisions and for the revision exercise. See FAQ for Stakeholders at http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0345/HC_MH_Judgement_and_factsheet-29.03.18.pdf	The change to **Daily Living Activity 3** pushed back case law that allowed significant issues with monitoring medication and mental conditions to count as therapy and so able to score fairly. It confirms the huge gap re: supervision; help with complex medication was behind many DLA Care awards on supervision grounds. The change to **Mobility Activity 1** made the previous covert discrimination - by side-lining people with mental health issues on to unnecessary special mental health descriptors - absolutely plain. They were simply unable – alone amongst all disability groups – to access the mainstream "following and planning a journey" descriptors, which would otherwise be perfectly able to capture mental health difficulties. **Impact of the reversal of PIP Mobility changes:** • ***Enhanced rate***. Much comment, but in practise, this may be difficult to access anyway. Being unable to plan and follow a journey in even familiar places can often be accompanied by remaining housebound. • ***Standard Rate*** Perhaps the biggest gain is to partially frustrate the targeting of 600,000 on DLA Lower Mobility to no Mobility at all. Since the High Court decision the Minister for Disabled People has stated in written answers on 30 January 2018 that anyone owed arrears as a result of the MH case would be paid either from the date of their claim or the date of the judgment (28.11.16), whichever is later.	Following a successful legal challenge in the High Court the changes to PIP Mobility activity 1 have been quashed and should be read as originally made. The government has committed to review 1.6 million claims – including those that did not receive an award – and that any arrears will be paid to the later of the date of claim, or 28 November 2016 - the date of the UT decision in MH (the original favourable decision). They estimate 220,000 have been affected, but this may well be higher. The Government while making a determined effort to take serious action to comply with the court ruling do not accept all the criticism and fight shy of any apology for unlawful discrimination, nor any proposal to remove separate descriptors for mental health as a safeguard against covert discrimination. A reliance on the "psychological distress" descriptors may still yield the intended reduction in Standard Mobility, even if those with the resilience or support to challenge may win appeals based on MH. The high court decision was due to the discrimination against claimants with mental health problems, however the media reports have not reflected the actual MH decision. The people most likely to be affected are the people with no mobility award now being entitled to an award of the standard mobility component. The guidance has still not been updated, nor has there been clarification of how those affected will be identified or when.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2017	**Universal Credit**	**Work conditionality for parents:** • work preparation for those with child aged 2. • full job seeking for those with child aged 3 or 4	Main carers will be subject to sanctions of all their standard allowance from when their youngest child is 2.	More use of foodbanks and destitution unless the policy around sanctioning is changed
	Universal Credit & Child Tax Credit ***The Two Child Policy***	**The "two child" policy** - No CTC individual element for third or subsequent children (if *child born* on or after 6.04.17) / No UC child element for any third or subsequent child (unless already on UC at 6.4.17 or migrating from tax credits in which case children born before 6.4.17 are protected), unless exceptions apply. **Cuts of £1,365 million by 2020** **Family element (CTC) / 1st child addition UC**: Abolished where first child born after April 2017 **Cuts of £675 million by 2020** *(Inc. HB Fam Prem)* New claims to UC will not be accepted from families with more than two children until after 31 January 2019 – they will instead be directed to legacy benefits. However, families already on UC will stay on UC and any third or subsequent children born on or after 6.4.17 will not get the child element (unless exempt), Any child disability addition or childcare costs for such children still apply.	Larger families who don't have transitional protection or have a third (or more) child after April 2017 will be left without financial support for that child, with some exceptions e.g. multiple births, rape. A migration from CTC to UC will not be counted as a new claim so a child born before 6.04.17 will not be caught. But it will be a new claim if parents are off UC for 6 months or more, creating a major perverse disincentive to risk coming off UC. A disabled child element can still be paid - where appropriate - to an excluded 3rd or subsequent child. But this is halved for most under UC. Enables families in this situation to stay on legacy benefits which could be to their advantage, although if there are high childcare costs it could work against them as UC gives more support with childcare. Once UC re-opens to families with more than 2 children, the full UC rules will apply – the key date will no longer be date of birth of the excess child but the date of claim for UC.	Even under the current "too generous" system families with more than 2 children are more likely to be in poverty. There is no evidence that claimants have larger family sizes than other taxpayers. Rather, the policy speaks more to ancient Poor Law myths of feckless parents being the authors of their own misfortune. It ignores the potential, the life chances and the rights of the child and hits families at a point where child poverty already rises to 35% rather than 25%. Unlike the benefits cap – that now hits any family with 3+ children - this cut hits working families too. Legal challenges are already underway – see http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/two-child-limit-challenge The delay is to ensure standard rules apply until UC is fully rolled out across the UK. Once UC re-opens its doors, the switch from ***date of birth*** of "excess" children to the ***date of claim***, captures children born long before the then Chancellor took to giving family planning advice. Either date will catch those who may have planned families in better times, and regardless of the alleged fecklessness in other cases, punishes the child, deeply affects life chances, increases child poverty and causes economic and social damage.
	Universal Credit & JSA ***(under 21s)***	Unemployed young people to get intensive support from Day1 to find work. After 6 months must either: • apply for an apprenticeship; or • gain other work-based skills; or • go on a mandatory work placement	Life as a jobseeker becomes more difficult for under 21s. Extra support may be helpful or simply increase targeting and sanctions. Under 21s will ***not*** gain from increases in the National Minimum Wages, as these are reserved for over 25s, though they may get increased employment opportunities by undercutting those turning 25	Another round of "blame the victim" special measures are reserved for citizens under 21, through higher conditionality pressures and compulsory work at benefit rates.
	Universal Credit & ESA	Removal of the **UC limited capability for work element** and **ESA Work Related Activity Component** for new claims. Those linking back to old claims or still in assessment period at April 2017 are unaffected. The WRA group, work conditionality and sanctions still remain as do ESA Permitted Work and UC work allowances. **Cut of £640 million by 2020**	People with LCW will get no more money than jobseekers however long they are on benefit. The change creates a perverse incentive not to try work that might lead to loss of LCW status, for fear of not being able to return with WRAC / LCW element. A single pre-April 2017 claimant on ESA may have an applicable amount of up to £179.75 whereas a post April 2017 UC claimant will receive the equivalent of £73.10. A big hit for those with long term health issues. Some of the savings are to be ploughed into enhanced support, training etc to get	The policy justification is to remove a perverse incentive to claim ESA/UC with LCW rather than as a jobseeker, though no evidence is offered. Besides the gateway to "limited capability" is guarded by the WCA. Rather the change creates its own perverse incentives: not to attempt work and give up LCW or to claim JSA or IS inappropriately to access disability premium instead. This change reneges on the ESA "welfare to work" new deal: to pay long term additions early in exchange for some work-related activity. The conditionality and sanctions threat remains, but both the work incentive and recognition of additional long-term costs is removed.
	Universal Credit Housing Costs ***(under 21s)***	No UC Housing Costs Element -for jobseekers under 21, unless they: • count as "vulnerable." • are unable to live with their parents. • are parents themselves? have been working for at least 6 months before the housing costs claim; then payable for 6 months. **NB: This policy – introduced in April 2017 – was reversed from April 2018**	It may increase homelessness and undermine any positive support within the Youth Obligation Proving a young person is 'vulnerable' or unable to live with parents will be difficult, and youth homelessness may well increase.	The move again singles out young people as somehow less deserving of support from their fellow citizens. Young people are old enough to participate in society and die for their country, but not to be treated as adults in housing terms until they are 35. The Intergenerational Foundation is concerned at the economic, social and political impact of this growing divide. However, statistics in January 2018 have shown that 96 per cent of 18–21-year-olds have been awarded housing costs since automatic entitlement ended.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2017	**Bereavement Support Payment**	From April 2017, BSP replaces current bereavement benefits with • a lump sum of £2,500 plus 18 monthly payments of £100 for those without children • a lump sum of £3,500 plus 18 monthly payments of £350 for those with children. Tax free, ignored for UC, not variable by age, simpler 1-year NI contribution, not lost on a new partnership	A less complicated merged system than the current mix of Bereavement Payment, Bereavement Allowance and Widowed Parents Allowance. A small cost saving with the current system. There will be some winners and some losers – the latter being among those receiving WPA over a number of years while being main carer for a child or qualifying young person	Reinforces the view of bereavement payments as a short-term support to cushion the financial shock post bereavement. This time-limiting previously only applied to Bereavement Allowance, introduced to make extension to bereaved men cost neutral. WPA was an important preventer of poverty among children who had lost a parent, but withdrawal after eighteen months moves away from insurance towards relief of poverty through other benefits
July 2017	**Pension Credit & other schemes with older people**	**Minimum 2% Gilt rates removed** - from Government Actuaries Department (GAD) tables for annuities. This set the minimum notional income for untaken pension pots	As the actual Gilt rates have been below 2% for some time, this reduces the amount of notional income from untaken pensions for those over state pension age.	Should lead to an increase in benefit for those affected
Aug 2017	**Babybox** *(Scotland)*	Every new-born baby born and living in Scotland is entitled to a free Babybox of essentials	Babyboxes contain essentials, such as clothes, nappies and books, to help ensure the best start in life. The Bay Box concept can also help expectant mothers engage with maternity and antenatal services.	Reduce poverty at birth
Oct 2017	**Universal Credit** *(Scotland)*	**Scottish Choices** introduced from 4 October 2017 to new claimants in UC full service areas to choose to have housing costs paid direct to landlord and/or or twice monthly payments. From 31.01.18 these will be extended to those: • those who were already receiving Full Service UC before 4.10.17 • transferring from Live Service to Full Service after 31.01.18	Reduces the chance of rent arrears/debt building up rapidly at the start of claim. However, the choice is only offered after the first UC monthly payment as they will have been assessed and the amount known. Then offered the two options. UC payday remains the same but at the end of the 2nd assessment period they only receive half the award with the second half 15 days later.	Statistics of rent arrears and/or debt problems for universal credit claimants in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK will be interesting to monitor. Split payments still available via Scotland Act 2016 Take up of the 2-payment option has not been good so far, perhaps because all of the first payment was spoken for in debts accrued while awaiting that first UC payment. A claimant may be put off at only getting a half payment on their second UC payday. However, this choice may become affordable as the improvements in cover in the first month take effect. And that first UC payment is seen more as money for the month ahead.
	Hardship payments	Claimants who are homeless of have a long-term mental impairment able to receive hardship payments (when sanctioned) without a waiting period	Some of the most vulnerable people will at least have money straight away	However, this does not address the issue that many of these claimants should not be being sanctioned in the first place
Jan 2018	**Universal Credit** *(Live Service)*	No new claims to the live service allowed (unless a reclaim within six months of a previous claim)	While making sense as the live service IT system is not fit for purpose, there will be confusion as only about a third of the country will have access to new claims to UC	A step backwards in the progress of UC. Gives all UC claimants – bar those in work – an opportunity to step out of UC until their area transitions to Full Service (if this is advantageous)
Feb 2018	**Universal Credit** *(Waiting days)*	Seven waiting days at start of claim abolished with effect from 14 Feb 2018	Will help alleviate the problem of claimants getting into debt before their UC claim has even had a chance to start. Also avoids the problem of waiting days being incorrectly applied which was happening all too frequently	Brought about as a result of intense pressure, including from within the Tory party, due to severe hardship it was causing

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2018	**Universal Credit** *(delayed from April 2016)*	**Surplus earnings** rule brought in for those on the 'digital system' – accumulated earnings that are more than £2,500/month over threshold for nil entitlement to UC, count as notional income on a return to UC within 6 months. To be reduced to £300 above threshold after one year.	Extremely complex rule will make it very hard for claimants to know what benefit they might receive in the future – and for advisers to advise!! A serious disincentive to take short term contracts if they take you off Universal Credit. The temporary higher de-minimis amount means the effect will be limited this year – will only really impact on those who have sudden large payments e.g. self-employed with very variable income or workers who get an annual bonus.	Claimants who manage to get their head above water in respect of debt during a period of employment may then find they are plunged back into debt after, as both delays in restarting their UC claim and the "surplus earnings" rule eat into their UC payments. This is the reverse of tax credits which offer increased incentives on moving into work
		Ability for self-employed people to **carry forward losses** to next month– introduced for claimants in the 'digital system' only.	Positive rule for self-employed allowing them to even out earnings through high and low periods. However, minimum income floor will still impact.	11-month limit which was originally planned has been removed so losses can carry forward indefinitely
	Universal Credit *(HB run on)*	**Two-week run on of Housing Benefit** for UC claimants in receipt of housing benefit at point at which they migrate to universal credit (will be paid at full housing benefit rate irrespective of amount of housing benefit claimant was in receipt of)	Where the claimant was on HB direct to landlord additional payment will be made in same way, so it may leave claimants in credit on their rent accounts if an APA is set up from the start of their UC claim	Policy has been brought in as a result of growing pressure, including from within the Tory party, to help claimants in the transition to universal credit avoid large rent arrears accumulating before their first payment.
	Universal Credit *(England only)*	**Free school meals threshold** introduced – no help where a household's earned income is over £7,400 per year (which can be averaged over a three-month period). The new regulations currently only apply to children in England.	Allowing the monthly threshold to be averaged over three months helps avoid the cliff edge for some with variable incomes but for many increasing earnings a little over the threshold could make them substantially worse off	Transitional protection will protect those already in receipt of free school means to the later of either 31 March 2022, or the date the child completes the stage (primary or secondary) of education the child was undertaking on 31 March 2022.
	Housing Costs	Support for mortgage interest to be in the form of a loan to be repaid on sale of the house or death. On repayment the charge will be limited to available equity after other charges have been settled. Interest is compounded monthly, although on a low Gilt linked rate.	Support given could reduce equity substantially, in some cases completely. Will affect those using equity as security for other financial products. The large number of people who have not accepted the loans may cause mortgage arrears to grow.	Given that the waiting period is so long for non-pensioners and no help when any earnings for Universal Credit, this may not impact as many people as originally thought. Initial applications for loans are much lower than expected.
		Housing costs for temporary accommodation to be met via HB, not UC. But still counts to mean the lower Work Allowance within UC.	Will stop anomaly of claimant receiving no help with housing costs just because they were not in the temporary accommodation on their assessment day	Will avoid large arrears building up.
		Young people under 21 – The denial of Housing Costs Element, unless exempt is abolished	Relieves UC of an administrative burden and ends serious difficulties for those caught up in it	Figures in January 2018 showed 96% were exempt anyway, but delays and hassle proving that to UC.
	CTR *(Scotland)*	Backdating increases to 6 months	Reduction in Council Tax arrears and Debt, especially in the light of the lack of awareness of the need for a separate claim under UC	Particularly in the context of CTR claims being missed by UC claimants and advice not forthcoming from different departments until social security (Scotland) introduce income maximisation in the SS act
	Fair Start *(Scotland)*	• **Fair Start Scotland (FSS)** is the new employability programme which is voluntary. **Job Grant - £250** for young parents, unemployed for six months or more, when they return to work to help with the basic costs	Fair Start Scotland goes live in April 2018 and to support at least 38,000 people over three years of referrals and will have positive impacts on around 7,000 children.	Job Grant will provide additional support for young parents. However, the Flexible Support Fund is still available to all jobseekers, but stats show only 6% of spending is attributed to Scotland. A plan to raise awareness and use of this support which is at the discretion of UC work coaches to tackle under use.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
	The Social Security (Scotland) Act *(all Scottish Benefits)*	Stage 3 – Final Stage for the Bill to establish the Scottish social security system – for the newly devolved benefits – passed unanimously in the Scottish Parliament. This introduced 11 new benefits to be administered by a new agency, Social Security Scotland: • carer's assistance; • cold-spell heating assistance; • winter heating assistance; • disability assistance; • early years assistance; • employment-injury assistance; • funeral expense assistance; • housing assistance; and • short-term assistance. *(many names changed during implementation)* **Key features include:** • a right to independent advocacy where, due to a disability, an individual requires an advocate's help to engage effectively with the process for determining entitlement *(s. 1G);* • a right to have another person - a supporter - present during any discussion or assessment entitlement (*s. 32B*); • a restriction on private sector involvement in assessments *(s. IJ);* • assessments only if it is the only practicable way to obtain the information needed to determine what assistance the individual is eligible to be given (*s.1L);* • an automatic right to the maximum disability assistance for individuals with a terminal illness, based on a doctor's diagnosis with no prognosis time limit *(s. 14 and Schedule 4);* • a carer's allowance supplement to be paid to top up the benefit to the rate of JSA *(s. 47);* • a requirement to consult with the Secretary of State about bringing forward regulations to provide for payments of UC to be split between members of a couple unless the couple request otherwise *(s. 53A)*; and • establishing a Scottish Commission on Social Security to scrutinise legislative proposals *(s. 6A and Schedule A1).*	Initial general principles are encouraging words such as *"social security", "rights based,", "dignity, fairness and respect"* are all enshrined in the Act. There have been concerns at e.g. the lack of primary legislation in the Act re the criteria for new benefits, some new offences created, and other issues. However there has been openness to consultation, amendment and improvement of the Bill – with added time to each stage. The counter argument is to focus on a good framework for now with a more flexible and clear definition of criteria in the Regs, within an overall consensus of *"dignity, fairness and respect".* For example, we don't know yet the detail of *Disability Assistance and the impacts of differences with* AA, DLA and PIP, but it is aimed for: • more support to claim and an easier application process. • less dependence on face-to-face assessment • where required, assessments will not be done by private sector and will have *"a greater emphasis on the needs of the disabled person"?* • the removal of any artificial time limit on terminal illness and for that to be based on a doctor's clinical judgement and certification. • an Expert Advisory Group to recommend on lengths of awards, automatic entitlements and lifetime awards. The first payments for the new Social Security Scotland will be backdated supplements to Carer's Allowance to bring payment up to £73.10. These will be done as 6 monthly in arrears until a new Carers Assistance is in place to smoothly take over from Carer's Allowance Many of the details of criteria and timetables for orderly transition from UK benefits to their Scotland equivalents will be laid out in secondary legislation	This Stage 3 was for consideration of final amendments to the Bill and a final vote. Following the unanimous vote, the Bill is due to become an Act within the next couple of months. Progress to the new benefits being in place will depend on: • secondary legislation to establish the Regs. and criteria for the new assistances • Discussions with the DWP to ensure a safe and orderly handover for these benefits to Social Security Scotland The DWP will remain to administer the UK-benefits and may, it is hoped, be cross contaminated by the *"fairness, dignity and respect"* agenda. Progress may feel frustratingly slow e.g. for the 187,000 who will still have to go through PIP assessments before a new disability assistance takes over. But the aim is for maximum inclusiveness, consultation and cross-party agreement in a "once-only" chance to start from scratch. Examples of amendments to the Bill accepted by the Scottish Government or accepted in a different form include: NAWRA has been heavily involved in the consultation: • as part of Scottish Convention of Welfare Rights Workers (SCoWR) steering group – see http://www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/SCoWR • added support to the Scottish Independence Advocacy Alliance - https://www.siaa.org.uk/ • added support to CAS amendment on increasing Funeral Assistance given the long-term freeze on the Funeral Expenses Payments it replaces, to reflect the real-world costs of a basic funeral. Great hopes and expectations in this brave new consensus, which will allow a much kinder spirit of debate around the new provisions. However, anything that goes beyond the funding transferred over from the UK Government in respect of the devolved benefits, would need to be topped up from the Scottish Government Budget. Really important differences in Scotland to date – such as the Scottish Welfare Fund, retention of a national Council Tax Benefit in all but name, and the flooding out of bedroom tax with DHPs, have not come with the same big price ticket implications of say a more generous Disability Assistance. It may be that at first, the real gains for claimants in Scotland will be around a far less punitive and stigmatising regime, with much less assessment and a duty to support claimants and encourage take-up, rather than any substantial increases in the value of benefits. But such changes will still be hugely welcome and watched with interest from across borders and seas.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
	Family Financial Health Check *(Scotland)*	A new Financial Health Check Guarantee – to check benefits and maximise take up.	Financial Health Check Guarantee for low-income families – investing £3 million in personalised advice to help tackle the poverty premium and support take-up of benefits to maximise incomes	The initial FHCG will naturally help in the short term and aims to impact positively on child poverty targets by 2030
	Funeral expenses	Changes made to – • Increase time limit for a claim to six months. • Shorten claim form for a child's funeral. • Disregard contributions from charitable funds and relatives	Gives more time to get the claim in, and eases the process a little as well as disregarding some help from others	Welcome changes although the funeral payment still remains wholly inadequate to meet the costs that are entailed. Will be interesting to see how this compares with the campaign for a more realistic level of payment under the new Scotland *Funeral Assistance*
Summer 2018	**Carers Allowance Supplement** *(Scotland)*	**Carers Allowance Supplement** being introduced in Scotland as a twice yearly top up, backdated to April 2018: • so that CA was equivalent of JSA rates i.e. then 73.10 pw. NB increased by more in April '20 • with proposals to consider a higher amount if caring for more than 1 person	Increases the effective value of Carer's Allowance topping it up to at least the same amount as JSA. All such supplements are disregarded for reserved UK benefits. But does this welcome 13% increase also mean importing the JSA benefits freeze unless the supplement - and its successor *Carers Support Payment* - retain the protection of a CPI annual increase?	Will eventually be rolled into a single Carers Support Payment paid entirely by the new Social Security Scotland. Initially SSS are paying CSP and a top up from CAS. These first payments from the SSS will be a chance to test out its developing structures and the delivery of "rights based" approach to benefits, delivered with "dignity, fairness and respect" And alongside a new statutory duty to deliver income maximisation advice. Also links into a new Carers Charter from April 2018, raising carers statutory rights for other support in Scotland
Autumn 2018	**Young Carers Grant** *(Scotland)*	a grant of £300 pa to carers aged 16, 17, and 18 caring over 16 hours pw and not entitled to CA. • additional entitlements / rewards for carers to the Young Scot National Entitlement Card • at a later date all recipients to get free bus travel	A mixture of cash for carers over 16 not entitled to CA and extra non - cash entitlements and rewards for all young carers under the Young Scot scheme for 11- to 18-year-olds.	A package developed in consultation with stakeholders including young carers. Might the new Carers Assistance amend the educational restrictions? Or offer help to carers doing 16 to 35 hours group. But this scheme makes a real start in recognising the value, burdens and issues for young carers.
end of 2018	**State Pension Age**	• ***Nov 2018*** - phased increase in women's pension age completed with pension age equalised at **65.** • ***Dec 2018 to 2020*** – pension age rises to **66.** • ***2026-28*** - rise to **67** brought forward. Thereafter future increases informed by reviews of longevity statistics to take place c. every 5 years. The first was in July 2017, with the next due by July 2023. The first recommended: the rise to 68 be brought forward by 7 years to ***2037-9***	More competition on job market as older people need to stay in employment. Others might want to stay on, as experienced employees. Others may struggle to meet growing demands of job or struggle with processes e.g. WCA criteria or JSA conditionality and face a higher risk of sanctions. Pension industry expectation is an increase by one year every 7 years to reach a pension age of 73 by 2060. Working pensioners currently able to claim Working Tax Credit. No in-work support for pensioners once Universal Credit replaces it.	Both men and women now will either have to show e.g. Job seeking activity or meet ESA requirements up to 65 and beyond. A growing potential for poverty in old age if someone's earning power diminishes or they face sanctions. Some will benefit from a new State Pension, but others may have to wait longer for less, as changes are cost neutral. Other options to defuse the "demographic time bomb" might include supporting people to have children or encouraging immigration.
Dec 2018	**Universal Credit** *(Roll out of Full Service UC completed)*	Rollout completes across GB on 12 December 2018 although claims still not allowed from families with more than 2 children. No new claims for Ir-ESA- unless already getting old style C-ESA - or Ib-JSA. No new claims for HB, IS or tax credits except for: • HB claims in specified/ temporary accommodation. • tax credit and HB claims if reached State Pension Credit (SPC) age or who are a member of a couple where at least one partner is of SPC age (i.e. "mixed-age" couples); • if a claimant is already in receipt of one tax credit, they can claim the other; or • a renewal tax credit claims by those already in receipt of tax credits.	Generally no new claims can be made to legacy benefits so if someone has a change of circumstance that puts them in a position where they would need to claim a legacy benefit then they may find themselves in a position where they have little choice but to claim universal credit. However, HB exemptions for specific purposes, while the ability to start a claim for the other part of tax credits or to add Ir-ESA to an old-style ESA claim are both due to neither being a new claim, but an adjustment in what is a single combined claim for ESA or Tax Credits. More and more people likely to 'naturally migrate' to UC without the benefits of transitional protection.	Advice for claimants will be key – it may not be immediately obvious whether a claim for universal credit is required or not – there may be other options e.g. where someone is moving house within a local authority area – if they are already on housing benefit this does not necessitate a new claim but just reporting of a change of circumstance. Claimants going to the jobcentre or local authorities may be advised to claim universal credit when it is not necessary and may be to the claimant's detriment

	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Jan 2019	**Universal Credit** *(SDP gateway)*	SDP gateway with effect from 16 January - no claim for UC can be made by a single claimant, or joint claimants either of whom: • is -or within the past month has been - entitled to an award of an existing benefit which includes the severe disability premium; and • in a case where the award ended during that month, s/he continues to satisfy the SDP conditions.	Prevents legacy claimants with an SDP from migrating naturally to UC so as to avoid the drop in income with no transitional protection. The government says it will introduce transitional protection payments for this group of claimants at some point in future. Those claimants still on the 'live' (non-digital) service due to be moved over to full service by Spring 2019.	Introduced as a result of the High Court case *TP and AR, R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for Work And Pensions [2018] EWHC 1474 (Admin),* in which a claim for judicial review was brought on behalf of two claimants who both saw their benefits reduce by around £178 per month when they moved home and were required to claim universal credit in the area they moved to. The court ruled that the government's failure to protect the rate of benefit for those who were required to move off their legacy benefits to claim UC was unlawful and ordered them to pay compensation to TP and AR equivalent to around £180 per month.
Feb 2019	**Universal Credit** *(larger families)*	Claims now accepted from all families regardless of the number of children. If it is a new claim with no transitional protection from legacy benefits only two children will be included in the award unless exceptions apply. If there is protection due to moving from tax credits, then only third or subsequent children born on or after 6.4.17 are excluded	Families who are making new claims are limited to help for two children only whenever they are born or come into the family. Could particularly hit large refugee families coming to UK.	Ensuring that claimants benefit from transitional protection as much as possible will be key particularly for large families.
	Abolition of tax credits	Both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit abolished from 1st February 2019, except where savings provisions apply i.e. if: • TC award covers a period including 31.01.2019 • If already have an award of one TC (e.g. CTC) and then claim the other (e.g. WTC) • If a claim for UC was prevented by the ten SDP Gateway; or for being a "frontier worker". • Where the younger partner in a mixed age couple can't claim UC due to transitional restrictions; and an award of a tax credit has effect for a period that ended on or before 30th January 2019	Generally no new claims for tax credit and working age people will need to claim universal credit whereas pensioners will need to claim for children via pension credit	Although child tax credit is replaced by child elements in pension credit there is no replacement for working tax credit which could leave working pensioners worse off as earnings are treated less favourably on pension credit.
Feb 2019	**Pension Credit** *(child element)*	Child element introduced into Pension Credit for pensioners responsible for a child, but without an award of Child Tax Credit – • £53.34 for each child (£63.84 for first child if born before 6/4/17) • £29.02 if they are disabled. • £88.34 if they are severely disabled	Where the responsible adult already getting CTC, this continues until any change of circumstances ends that award/does not renew TC award. After that – or for new claims without CTC - would need to add children to PC claim.be replaced by element within PC. Broadly similar amounts except that, CTC is: • not affected by any savings limits; and • does not roll off with income until a high threshold, whereas child amounts in PC roll off with adult ones, effectively from rate when other PC amounts have tapered away; and has a higher disability addition in 70% of cases.	Amounts equate to those in universal credit – a less generous disability element than in tax credits. However, they are not subject to a 2-child policy. Will add to the confusion for claimants and may impact on 'special guardianship orders' or need for kinship foster allowances -as benefits will not be as generous as under current entitlement to Child Tax Credit.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
March 2019	**PIP rollout delayed to end Feb 2021**	The OBR's Economic and fiscal outlook – which accompanies the Spring Statement observed that PIP rollout would not now be completed until February 2021. After a break during Covid lockdown, this has now been extended to 2025. In Scotland, switches to PIP did not resume but are replaced with a switch to ADP instead.	Since transfer to PIP applies to anyone who was under 65 on 8th April 2013, there could now be an increasingly older population having to undergo a PIP assessment, well into pension age – either when they report a change of circumstances or when they are' invited to claim'	Undergoing a PIP assessment as opposed to AA is probably more traumatic. However, the right to be assessed for the mobility component remains in place until the transition to PIP has happened. As a result pensioners up into their early 70s who are still awaiting transition will have a shot at claiming for mobility needs even when those needs only arose after pension age.
April 2019	**Fair Work** *(Scotland)*	**Fair Work** - investing £12 million between 2019 and 2022 on intensive key worker support for parental employment.	This support will help those parents who face considerable barriers returning to work, with a particular focus on our priority families. It will also help parents already in employment to stay in work and progress through a rewarding career.	Similar concept as the Genesis project in Wales from 2010 to 14
May 2019	**Pension Credit** ***("mixed age" couples)***	**Both** partners must now have reached State Pension Credit age to qualify for PC, if a **new** claim from 15th May 2019 (unless it was backdate-able to before then) **Existing** "mixed age" PC couple claims could continue BUT must remain continuously entitled to PC (or HB in pension age) to retain PC. ***If*** protection lost, then a new claim would be as for new "mixed age" couple claims. **Instead:** • The younger partner usually claims UC instead. E.g. forming a new mixed age couple, would normally be a new claim requiring UC rather than legacy benefits • **But a couple** already claiming legacy benefits can continue to do so, when an older partner passes SPC age. They would then gain a pensioner's premium and retain access to any severe disability. • **NB:** forming a new mixed age couple **with an Ir-ESA claimant** does **not** require a new claim (as unusually existing ESA claims can switch from single to couple), so they can also access the greater generosity of legacy benefits. • **Workers over PC age lose:** They could claim Working Tax Credit but will not be able to claim Universal Credit once WTC no longer available.	Couples where one under pension credit age will have to stay on/make new claim for Universal Credit – which unlike old "working age" means tested benefits does not have: • Pensioner Premium losing c.£150pw; nor • Severe disability Premiums However, the older partner's disability benefit will passport to an LCW element (if one is not already in payment) This may mitigate the loss, but still leave a potential loss of £250 a week for disabled couples. A big loss for new mixed age couples. But also for existing couples if they accidentally break their claim (e.g. by a short return to work or a trip abroad for longer than 4 weeks)	A number of different categories of Pension Credit claimants will emerge those with transitional protection to old amounts, new claimants of Pension Credit Plus and mixed age couples forced on to Universal Credit. Will be important to maximise take up of Pension Credit among mixed age couples before changes introduced and make sure couples in this situation already receiving Pension Credit understand the impact of a break in their claim.
Summer 2019	**Best Start Grant** *(Scotland)*	The Best Start Grant will provide lower-income families with financial Support during the key early stages of a child's life.	• Eligible families get £600 on the birth of the first child and £300 on the birth of any subsequent children. • No limit on the number of children supported. • Two further payments to eligible families: £250 each around the time of nursery and when a child starts school, in recognition of additional costs during these key transition periods.	It replaces and expands upon the UK Government's Sure Start Maternity Grant, which was cut from £500 per child to one payment for the first child only in April 2011 - see earlier entry.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
July 2019	**Universal Credit** ***(managed migration)***	***Managed Migration begins in a small-scale pilot in Harrogate from 24 July*** • Following the full rollout to new claims, remaining claimants of the "legacy benefits" – will start to be switched over to UC by JC+ • These claimants will get transitional protection if the UC amount due is lower than their previous benefit. • TP can be lost if a major change in circumstances. Aim was to complete the migration of most people to UC by March 2022. Once completed, the legacy benefits will disappear. Pilots stopped in pandemic and restarting during 2022 (see below for details /revised timeline) Regulations also include provision for an SDP transitional payment to be made to those who moved over to UC prior to the start of the SDP gateway but who had SDP in their legacy benefit in month before migration and still meet SDP conditions	The late start to managed migration now means that a significant number of "legacy benefit" claimants will either have switched to UC by "natural migration" before 2019 or will do so before their case is selected for a "managed migration" They will not get any transitional protection with serious potential losses for WTC claimants and those with disabilities. Those who do get TP may have a significant part of their UC as a transitional addition. This means many years without any benefit increases and a risk of sudden falls if TP is lost. For those with a variable income (meaning UC entitlement goes up and down from month to month) TP will be lost in a matter of months. A key advice issue will be whether it will be better to hold off on any "natural migration" to at least hold on until transitional protection is available if there is an option.	The Government continue to overstate the degree of protection, to divert criticism of cuts, especially in the wake of the U-turn on the April 2016 Working Tax Credit cuts. The pain will just be delayed as it may hit just as sharply if they switch to UC without protection. UC now hopes to complete its takeover of "legacy benefits" by 2022… Next steps - and cuts – may be around ideas of merging Child Benefit, Contributory ESA and Carers Allowance into UC. UC has become a lot tougher than its original concept. In 1946, the first Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, Aneurin Bevan said *"we are at last laying to rest the too long unburied corpse of the Elizabethan Poor Law"* He may have spoken too soon … The SDP transitional element fails to fully compensate those in the support group who move with an SDP - £120 instead of the approx. £180 loss for a single claimant. The draft regs had proposed just £80 but this was challenged by TP and AR causing the government to raise it to £120. TP and AR continue to challenge to get the compensation raised to the amount lost.
	Universal Credit ***(self-employed)***	Introduction for a 12-month exemption from the Minimum Income Floor for self-employed managed migrated to UC from July 2019 and for those who naturally migrate from September 2020.	Removes pressure to be earning an equivalent to the minimum wage giving a bit of breathing space for those who might still be establishing their business	While this is welcome news for the year in which it applies, many claimants may get a shock when it is introduced a year on.
Oct 2019	**Universal Credit** ***(debt deductions)***	Maximum rate of debt deductions reduced from 40% of standard allowance to 30% of standard allowance	While welcome, debt deductions remain considerably higher under universal credit, particularly for rent arrears which still have a minimum deduction rate of 10% of the UC standard allowance.	The reduction from 40% to 30% was not made in legislation which still provides for the higher level of deductions. Rather it operates on a discretionary basis with revised guidance from DWP.
April 2020	**ESA** ***End date for transitional protection in ESA removed***	Transitional protection that was paid with ESA following conversion from incapacity benefit was due to end 5/4/20. New regulations remove that end date so that claimants with a transitional addition continue to receive it until it is naturally eroded to nil, the ESA claim is closed, or in case of Ir-ESA, the award is migrated to UC	Very few ESA claimants will still be in receipt of a transitional addition – probably only those who had protections passing over from invalidity benefit to incapacity benefit and then to ESA - so the impact will be minimal, although less minimal than it might have been due to the effect of the benefit freeze over the last four years	When the deadline was first set, it was envisaged that everyone's protection would have been eroded but the benefit freeze changed that.
April 2020	**End of adult dependent increases**	The last remaining adult dependency increases in non-means tested earnings replacement benefits cease.	These had been gradually removed from an increasing number of such benefits. Only small amounts but made a difference to families just over means tested income levels e.g. where one earner on low pay.	
	Statutory Parental Bereavement Leave	Up to 2 weeks paid leave at same rate as SMP, after the death of a dependent child	Gives some guaranteed paid leave (but only up to a fortnight) in that situation. Many employers may be sympathetic to extension via sick leave.	Note also in Wales the automatic £500 Child Bereavement Payment (from April 2021) – no claim needed just sorted on registration of a death.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
July 2020	**2-week run-on of IS, Ib-JSA and Ir-ESA** ***(on migration to UC)***	Where claim for UC made on or after 22nd July 2020, any award of IS, Ib-JSA or Ir-ESA will continue to be paid for 2 weeks, without being taken into account for UC.	Extra payment will provide a cushion to lessen the effect of the 5 weeks wait for the first payment of UC	However, government has rejected calls to apply a similar run-on to tax credits so there is no extra payment for children in this period
March 2020 to Sept 2021	**Coronavirus changes across the benefits system & additional financial support**	• April 2020 – those self-isolating **deemed incapable** for work for SSP and treated as LCW for ESA/UC • **No waiting days** for ESA or SSP • Disability assessments suspended for 3 months with priority for new claims. • **WCA assessments** limited to those likely to get LCWRA only (rest stockpiled) until 2021. • No routine appointments at **local Jobcentre Plus** • **Verification** easements on UC claims as 1 million lodged in April/ May • Time self-isolating excluded from permitted sickness periods for JSA until 31/8/21 • **UC MIF** suspended until 31/7/21. • **£20 uplift to UC and WTC** (but **not** other legacy benefits for April 20/21, then extended to September 2021 • **Long frozen LHA** uprated to cover lowest 30% of properties in an area, but subsequently frozen again. • **Work conditionality** requirements lifted initially for 3 months, then extended but switched back on from 1/7/2021 • **Breaks in caring** because of Covid disregarded for Carers Allowance until 31/8/21 • **Recovery of benefit overpayments** paused. • **Child Benefit** could be claimed without registering the birth. • **Tribunals by** phone, paper hearings with a triage system in place to 18.09.2021 • A succession of short-term schemes each due to finally end but then extended until wound up in September 2021: ○ **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** ○ **Self Employed Income Support Scheme** • £500 million **Household Support Scheme** in April 2021, with a second funding in September Additional devolved Government schemes	All of these changes in the column to the left have now come and gone. But this record shows the extent to which the benefits system could adjust in a crisis situation and how it was able to manage with of the normal processes of policing, conditionality and frequent health re-assessment. It also showed the limitations of the UK social security system, in the absence of the earnings-related non-means tested benefits in other European countries; hence a much bigger furlough scheme was required in the UK. The list of changes is a useful historical record, in that all these departures from "business as usual" have ended. However, the speed of the return to return to normal has varied from a very quick resumption of work conditionality to some way to go in clearing a larger backlog of health assessments and re-assessments for sickness and disability benefits. Reduced capacity at DWP is showing itself in delays and poorer customer experience.	An unprecedented period of easement within the usual social security system, but a recognition that the income-shock of letting everyone fall into e.g. UC safety nets and the recovery delays of closing down significant parts of the economy required a significantly different additional level of support. UK furlough schemes etc were some of the biggest in Europe, because some other social security systems offer a short-term earnings-related financial support with less of an immediate income shock. There has been a marked lag in UK recovery from lockdowns compared to comparable countries which has led to economists considering the special impacts of UK economic and political choices.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Aug 2020	**Disabled students and UC**	With effect from 5th August 2020, new regulations stipulated that in order to qualify as a disabled student for UC, the claimant must already have a LCW determination when: • they start the course (if already on UC); or • when they claim UC (if already on the course)	This prevents disabled students from being entitled to UC for the whole duration of their course if they were not in a position to put themselves through the WCA prior to starting the course or starting the claim. It also means there is no provision to claim UC as a disabled student if you become disabled during your course	The new regulations were brought in following a Judicial review challenge on the DWP's refusal to put a disabled student through a WCA in order to assess entitlement. While the Sec. of State for DWP conceded the case, she brought in new regulations on the very next working day to "restore the policy intent". A subsequent challenge to the regulations was not successful.
Oct 2020	**SDP** ***(transitional payments become SDP Transitional Elements)***	On 8th October 2020, the SDP transitional payments in UC were converted to a special SDP transitional element. This meant they were now paid through the UC transitional elements system that will be used in "managed migrations" rather than manually and were also subject to the rules around erosion of transitional elements	This protection now becomes part of the usual UC calculation (as for transitional elements in managed migrations) and will be eroded by any increase in any other elements (except childcare. NB: Despite using the UC transitional elements system, this is **not** the same as a full calculation to be used in a "managed migration". Claimants may feel short-changed, as DWP seeks to limit protection to the narrowest interpretation of SDP only losses. *See January 2022 below.*	Pros and cons to this change. As a transitional element, it is not taken away if the person no longer meets the SDP conditions so loss of PIP, or someone claiming carer's allowance does not remove the element. However, other changes could reduce it (e.g. another element increasing) or take it away completely (e.g. forming a couple)
	DLA ***(past presence test for children)***	Following a successful JR challenge, the past presence test for DLA for children aged between 3 and 16 reverts to 26 out of 52 weeks	Where children have been abroad for an extended time – due to parents working abroad or visiting extended family, they will be able to qualify for DLA after just 6 months back in the UK	The judge ruled that the change of the past presence test from 26 out of 52 weeks to 104 out of 156 weeks, which happened to coincide with the introduction of PIP in April 2013, was discriminatory/ breached human rights
Nov 2020	**Universal Credit** ***(Adjusting monthly earnings in UC)***	From 16th November 2020, regulations provide for the Secretary of State to reallocate monthly earnings to maintain a regular pattern	Rules should ensure that, where a claimant is paid monthly, and two fall within the same Monthly Assessment Period (MAP), they will be attributed to two separate MAPs	This followed another judicial review challenge in the Courts, after claimants had lost out significantly from a pay day close to the end of the MAP causing some MAPs with 2 x monthly pay and some with none. Initially a manual process requiring notification by claimant, but now this is automated. NB: Other challenges re 4 weekly, 2 weekly & weekly pay ***not*** successful.
	Universal Credit ***(run on of UC at pension age)***	From 25/11/20, new regulations provide for a run-on of UC for claimants who reach state pension age until the start of the assessment period after one in which they reach that age, allowing for overlapping entitlement to UC and state pension credit and HB	This ensures that people reaching pension age don't have a gap in their means-tested benefits which could have been just short of a month, depending on when their birthday fell in relation to their assessment period	DWP agreed to make this amendment following pressure from organisations such as Age UK. Although the new legislation did not come into force until November 2020, the DWP were making comparable payments on an extra statutory basis from March 2020.
Jan 2021	**Removal of SDP Gateway**	As provided for in the managed migration regulations, the SDP gateway was removed with effect from 27th January 2021	Completes the final step in full roll-out of UC, meaning no completely new claims to legacy benefits other than HB (where UC doesn't cover rent i.e. temporary and supported accommodation or pension age. However it remains possible to start receiving Income-related ESA for the first time to an existing Contributory ESA claim or to add CTC to a WTC claim for the first time or vice versa; as these are not new claims.	Those with an SDP in their legacy benefit now may have a change of circumstances which leaves them with no choice but to claim UC. Although they will get the SDP transitional element in their UC award, this may not fully compensate them for their loss if they are in the support group. It is also subject to erosion by annual increases or should other UC elements, other than childcare increase.

NAWRA Benefits Changes Chart: Part 2 - Recent and Forthcoming Changes from April 2021 to April 2029

*(for changes **before** April 2021, please see the archive in **Part 1 - Earlier Changes – April 2011 to March 2021**)*

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2021	**Housing Benefit** ***(pension age personal allowance)***	HB personal allowances for pensioners (that effectively include the pensioner premium of other legacy benefits and more) is reduced for those reaching pension age after April 2021. The higher level is retained for those who had reached pension age before.	The previous extra amount in HB - compared to PC rates or personal allowance + pensioner premium in legacy benefits - effectively allowed HB to ignore an amount equal to maximum PC Savings Credit (regardless of whether any / how much Savings Credit was in payment). However, new awards of PC Savings Credit stopped from 1st April 2016	A loss linked to the erosion and abolition of PC Savings Credit, with that spending partly funding the increase in State Retirement Pension, with Savings Credit being said to merge into it.
by 2021	**Scottish Child Payment**	Originally proposed as an Income Supplement for families in Scotland • **First stage:** £10 a week for 140,000 households, affecting 170,000 children aged under 6. Increased to £20 in April 2022 • **Extended**: 14th November 2022 to all under 16 along with increase to £25.	. *"We are introducing a range of new social security support. The key action here is our commitment to work towards introducing a new income supplement within the lifetime of this Plan. This will deliver regular, additional financial help to low-income families".* From Nov. 2022 this covers 410,000 children (a third of children in Scotland)	First stage at £10 was expected to lift 30,000 children out of relative poverty altogether and reduce incidence of relative child poverty by 3%. The extra income from SCP will not be counted as income in e.g. UC or legacy calculations. Eventually an automatic monthly payment to all recipients but initially on a simple claim basis to Social Security Scotland.
April 2021	**Universal Credit** ***(Recovery of advances and deductions)***	From April 2021 the maximum rate of deductions from universal credit reduced to 25% of the standard allowance. Also, where advances are awarded on or after 12 April 2021, recovery will take place over 24 months as opposed to 12 months	This will provide a small easement for those who are currently having 30% of their standard allowance deducted, but it remains a very high level to be deducted continuously for months and even years. Advisers will need to help claimants to negotiate with debt management to get this reduced further	Similarly to when the rate was reduced to 30%, no legislative change has been made – it continues to operate through guidance rather than on a statutory footing. Analyses by IPPR and JRF suggest 49% do not get full UC, due to sanctions, third party deductions and repaying Advance Payments – an average loss of £15 pw. 69% of private tenants face rent shortfalls of an average £35 pw.
June 2021 & Oct 2022	**Housing Benefit** ***(single room rent)***	New exemptions from the lower Local Housing Allowance limit (single room rate in an HMO) From April 2022 does not apply if: • a care leaver up to the age of 25 • other under 25s who have spent at least 3 months in a homeless hostel. From October 2022 new exemptions if: • a victim of domestic abuse or modern slavery	Increases the number of under 35s who would be notionally allowed significantly higher limits that might notionally cover the rent for a self-contained 1-bedroom flat. Extending some support to care leavers, the homeless and victims of domestic abuse or modern slavery	These welcome extensions of LHA are within the context of a rapid divergence between all rates of LHA and rent levels, as rent levels react to significant demand pressures in the private rent sector rising at 29% pa at Oct 2022.
Sept 2021	**End of extra Covid Support**	See above – the last payments of £20 uplift in UC and WTC and the closing of Job Retention Scheme and SEISS	Concerns at loss of income at a still difficult time and impacts on those still on furlough / SEISS although down to c 1 million	There was a strong campaign to retain the £20 uplift, prescient as within a few months the Cost of Living Crisis kicked in with a wholly out of sync April 2022 uprating
Oct 2021	**Universal Credit** ***(lower recovery rate of court fines)***	Recovery rate of court fines reduced to a flat rate 5% - previously had been discretionary recover between 5% and a maximum rate of £108.35 per month	Welcome news to reduce the rate, although those with other debts waiting in the wings may not see the benefit if the deductions are replaced with others	
Nov 2021	**Universal Credit** ***(higher WAs & lower taper)***	With effect from 24th November 2021, UC Work Allowances are increased by £500 per year and the taper rate at which UC is withdrawn as net earnings rise is reduced from 63% to 55%	The changes mean workers on Universal Credit will see an increase in their awards, while workers who were just outside of UC may now be eligible for UC for the first time. It may be worthwhile to carry out take-up campaigns	A real boost to workers, but still leaving financial incentives at a level far lower than for top rate taxpayers, despite the DWP declaring that *"economic theory tells us that the money incentive effect is strongest at low incomes"*. Less welcome was accompanying rhetoric contrasting workers with presumed idlers – but most other UC claimants are carers or long term unwell.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2022 to April 2023	**Terminal Illness Rule Changes** ***(for UC and ESA from April 2022; for disability benefits by April 2023)***	Definition of terminal illness for UK wide sickness benefits and disability benefits outside Scotland extended to "death could be reasonably expected within 12 months" rather than previous 6 months: Initially ESA and UC only but extended to disability benefits by April 2023 once primary legislation enacted. • in Northern Ireland the rules have been changed for disability benefits from April 2022 • in Scotland the devolved disability benefits have no time limit in the definition of terminal illness	A new form – the [SR1](SR1) – applied if someone meets the new 12-month definition -initially for ESA and UC only - but **not** the 6-month definition that was still operating for disability benefits (AA, DLA &PIP with DS1500 retained. DS1500 form retained for PIP, DLA and AA. Now only the SR1 is used for ***all*** UK-wide benefits. The change from 6 to 12 months was to better fit with clinical views of terminal illness. The previous 6 months – and some implication this was a limit – had led many clinicians to be reluctant to issue. 12 months may ease reluctance. But NB: 12 months remains a guideline rather than a limit. See DWP Guidance . In Scotland, there is a [BASRiS (Benefits Assessment under Special Rules in Scotland)](BASRiS) form for use with claims relating to Child and Adult Disability Payments. See a sample Special Rules ADP claim form [here.](here) [The SR1 form still applies in Scotland for ESA/UC](SR1)	A welcome change despite an interim period of two different forms. The 6 months had come from the AA qualifying period being waived for those who might not see it through rather than the more familiar 12 months relevant to clinicians. But it is not an exact science and often there is reluctance to commit to a prognosis or to express it as a range. Case law states the reference to 6 months – and now 12 months - is not a time limit on claims. No definite prognosis is required at all, but if one is, then it does not have to be for under 12 months nor is it given on forms. Rather, the issue is: Would death not be a surprise, were it to occur within 12 months? This can apply even if also realistic hopes of much longer. e.g. an award of AA/DLA/PIP under special rules is for 3 years and it can then be renewed on a forward test: looking ahead, do the criteria still apply, for a further 3-year award?
July 2021 to April 2029	**The slow return to DWP "Business as usual"** ***(jobseeking, sickness & disability benefits)***	**JSA & UC (with all / sanctionable work requirements)** • – normal jobseeking criteria, signing on and sanctions from July 2021 • sharp rise in sanctions – doubled from pre-pandemic levels. Increase to current levels came as a sharp rise from July2021 to Oct 2021	Quickest return to normal in a switch from no jobseeking possible in lockdown back to the usual provisions for signing on, actively seeking and being available work. Not just a return of sanctions but a significant increase in them, as they double to 6.7% of UC claimants who come under the sanctions regime. Alongside other changes in expectations for jobseekers and part time workers	The enforced suspension of "business as usual" across work, sickness and disability conditionality offered an opportunity to actually look at the impacts of not carrying on as before. An opportunity to consider impacts of not operating usual checks, assess their effectiveness and consider alternatives may have been lost. One lasting change has been the use of telephone and video health assessments and appeal hearings. Some may find these easier than attending face to face, others may struggle. How are they affected by absence of the claimant in person or loss of non-verbal communication? "Business as usual" then is about getting back – at varying speeds – to the institutionally comfortable way things have always been done, A missed opportunity to explore how much of the apparatus of "policing" work and health conditionality is necessary for a robust social security system. Was wild advantage taken or do the known very low levels of sickness fraud and high levels of motivation for jobseekers to find work take over? No clear evidence has ever been offered that sanctions incentivise jobseeking. They are noted as a driver of foodbank usage. Would a work coach solely focussed on support and mentoring have greater success in a shared objective of finding work, without the policing role defined by sanctions triggers? Similarly for sickness and disability benefits. Might a different approach to assessing health limitations, with a presumption of sympathy rather than suspicion be more effective at finding a way back to work for those who can and support for those who can't. This may be linked to the administrative burden involved in changing a decision at MR that acts as an arbitrary limiter on changing decision.
		ESA & UC (limited capability) • increased claim numbers – covid impacts and growing NHS waiting lists. • WCA assessments almost stopped and priority was for new claims where LCWRA was quite likely (as payment issue) • But no prioritisation of C-ESA coming up to 12-month time limit. • Slow catching up with WRA group, re-assessments of existing claims	It would not be a surprise to anticipate more health issues affecting capability for work whether from direct impacts of the pandemic, long covid, vaccine damage and the indirect ones of huge pressure and increases in NHS waiting lists. Many people claiming benefits based on limited capability are interested in work. But highlighting 20% of LCWRA claimants keen to engage in support does not mean ignoring 80% whose health may not allow. Prioritisation on new claims (esp. where LCWRA possible) important so that people don't miss out on extra income. But a real issue for those on C-ESA only who hit the 12-month limit and for whom payment stops unless found to have LCWRA	
		PIP & ADP • 50% increase in claims, perhaps due to difficulty accessing advice, more long-term health issues (covid, NHS waiting lists). Led to waiting times climbing to 12 months, now back to 3 months. • But action on new claims delayed renewals, with a standard 12-month extension of awards. • Assessments are mostly telephone/video. But face to face are back and intention is customer choice. • Rise to 50% change rate at MR – was a temporary blip from cancelling disallowances for late PIP2s. • The first 10 yearly "light touch" reviews now due • ADP is seeking to have a very different feel so will have a rather different "business as usual".	More concern at support for disabilities in Government rhetoric compared to more "problematic" sickness benefits. More research could be done around increased application rates. A good call to prioritise new claims receiving no benefit, over delays in re-assessments where PIP is in payment. A shame that previous DWP initiatives to improve decision making at MR, after a focus at appeal, has not shown in any change in MR rates which are back at 15 to 20%, forcing clients to wait and be anxious for a year with 70% success at appeal. Hopes remain that 'light touch" will be barely noticeable to claimants with severe long-term conditions unlikely to change. Too early to say what lessons are to be learned from the key differences in claims and assessment processes and a more holistic decision-making process aimed for in ADP. With PIP/ADP criteria almost the same, this may allow for easier comparison.	

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis

April to Oct 2022	**Cost of Living Payments & Guarantees**	An evolving picture of Cost of Living Payments, some means tested, some not.
		Means tested CLPs in 2022-23:
		• ***July 2022*** – first of two payments (£326) to those on means tested benefits (as at 25th May 22) or later backdated to then (but not if just getting HB or CTR)
		• ***November 2022*** – a second tranche of £324 to be paid to those in receipt of qualifying benefits (or backdated to before) on 25th September.
		• Payment dates are later from HMRC if sole qualifying benefit is a Tax Credit.
		Non-means tested help:
		• April 2021 - £150 to **council tax** bill payers, but restricted to Bands A, B and C
		• ***September 2022*** An extra £150 Cost of Living Payment (CLP) added to September payments of **disability benefits** (AA, DLA, PIP, CDP & ADP)
		• ***October 2022 to April 2023 - £400 grant*** to reduce electricity bills– replacing earlier proposal for a smaller loan – Paid via a £66 pcm reduction in monthly electricity bills or credits/vouchers for pre-payment meters.
		• ***November/December 2022*** – CLP addition to **Winter Fuel Payments** – an extra £150 to £300 added to usual amount.
		• ***Energy Price Guarantee****:* subsidising energy price cap from Oct 2022 for six months (later extended to July 2023). Limits the Oct 2022 energy price cap to 27 % or:
		  ○ 34p per kW/h of electricity and
		  ○ 10p per kW/h of gas.
		NB: the typical household figure quoted - £2,500 - replaced estimates for normal Ofgem Price cap of £3,800 in Oct and ?£5,000 in Jan23. BUT both cap and Guarantee - are on cost per unit, so bills may be higher or lower than £2,500.
		Additional devolved Government schemes add to support available.
			All makes for a significant increase in help available.
			Usual clash between simplicity of non-means tested help and targeting of means tested help.
			Issues and concerns arising include:
			• the affordability of a typical £2,500 cap for the originally proposed 2 years.
			• the degree to which it gave extra help to better off high energy users e.g. for pools.
			• the practical difficulties and low take up rate of cashing in of pre-payment meter vouchers for those by definition most impacted by fuel prices.
			The November 2023 Autumn statement outlined proposals for 2023-24 to include:
			• continuation of Energy Price Guarantee to July 2023, by which time the usual Ofgem price cap would be lower and take over.
			• repeats of CLPs for disability and pensioners
			• a £900 means tested CLP, payable in three stages.
			• See more details of 2023=24 CLPs below
				Significant levels of help, some lacking targeting, but other help targeted at those on lowest incomes.
				This much extended range of support – adjusting to a significantly worsening energy prices – goes a long way to easing the considerable lag impact from the circumstances around benefits uprating.
				The £400 grant to all may be in danger of missing the most vulnerable – those on pre-payment meters - if errors, limitations on where they can be cashed and high rates of vouchers not being cashed persist. It is to be hoped that early poor take up rates may be indicative of some saving up of vouchers for the really cold times ahead.
				The original typical £2,500 Energy Price Guarantee for two years clearly did not survive the encounter between "Trussanomics" and the markets, In the end, though, market prices started to fall and the EPG became unnecessary.
				The November 2022 Financial Statement indicated the new trajectory for Cost of Living support in 2023/24, with more detail to follow. Broadly, the key features will be:
				• reduce the extent of universal Energy Price Guarantees – to a rate per unit yielding a typical bill of £3,000, with further details to come re a max number of subsidised units per household cap. The Government also hopes a drop in market prices will cut costs significantly.
				• In the event this happened so no increase was required in April and EPG could end from 01.07.23 in favour of the usual Ofgem price cap.
				• a repeat of universal Cost of Living Payments on disability benefit, Winter Fuel Payments etc
				• a significant increase in the low-income CLPs – to £900 – for those receiving a qualifying means tested benefit.
				Longer term there is a Europe wide attempt to reform energy markets decouple electricity from gas and oil prices and reduce the focus on the marginal costs of the most expensive energy source.
				The quickest, cheapest route to increased alternative supply remains renewables, but this is not coming through the complexities of the market failure around price setting.

May 2022	**Universal Credit "managed migration"** ***(pilot / "discovery phase" restarts)***	Following a pause due to the pandemic, a small-scale managed migration (MM) pilot restarted with 250 claimants in each of Bolton, Medway, parts of Cornwall, LB of Harrow and Northumberland DWP aimed to roll out nationally from Jan 2023 and complete migration by the end of 2024. Rollout delayed from Summer 23 to early 24. However, managed migration for most getting Income-related ESA delayed to 2028/29. DWP has also issued new draft managed migration regs which remove the 10,000 people limit before requiring Parliamentary scrutiny – SSAC	The DWP calls this a "discovery phase" in which no one will fail to transfer safely, an extension to time limit will be given if they do not apply in time. It says it is testing different migrations notices to see which work best. It also says it is still on schedule to finish managed migration by the end of 2024, except for Income-related ESA. The OBR put the savings for each year's delay at c £1 billion pa, due to: • those gaining under UC sums switching over later. • those losing under UC sums migrating naturally without transitional protection. • less staff needed if MM happens in stages. DWP say only reason is financial, but it will also allow the migration process to be well sorted and extra support offered to the Ir-ESA group.	Time will tell on how managed migration works. It is very unlikely in these early stages that DWP will let anyone slip through the cracks as this would be very controversial. Early DWP analysis of the "discovery phase" was optimistic with a low no claim rate of people mostly seen as people making informed decisions not to bother. However, 2023 and 2024 may be a different story as MM ramps up… Also alongside managed migration, DWP is doing a big push on voluntary migration – particularly aimed at tax credit claimants. They suggest people get advice and /or use an online benefits calculator but leave that to the claimant. The risk is no transitional protection and no going back for those who choose this option and find themselves worse off.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Aug 2022	**Adult Disability Payment** *(Roll out)*	• All new claims now made for **Adult Disability Payment (ADP)** rather than PIP across Scotland • If still on Adult DLA migration in 2028-29 will be to ADP, not PIP. • If on PIP, no need to do anything as will transfer automatically in due course to same rates under ADP. Only see a difference at review/renewal time • ADP keeps the same points system as PIP but promises a v. different claims and assessments process centred on a culture of *"dignity, fairness and respect"*. SSS to report on ADP stats	Some controversy around a ?missed opportunity to do more in departing from the PIP model. However, the Scottish Government stated aim is to keep ADP aligned to PIP for now to ease switchovers and allay anxiety of another re-assessment. However ADP still has big changes in: • **Claims**: paper, online, by phone, in person as people wish. A two-part claim form (as per former Adult DLA) with 8 weeks to complete Part 2 • **Assessment**: a presumption of belief in client description on the two-part form, more use of other medical/social evidence • **face to face consultations**: only as a last resort with appropriate SSS staff HCPs trained in Social Security Scotland principles.	A lively debate around how disability benefits could be done very differently, Similarity with the criteria will ease direct comparison of the claimant journey and experience for ADP and PIP claimants. And the impacts on award, MR and appeal rates in Scotland. However, there may be far more significant budgetary implications in this departure from UK norms than previous ones, which may be challenging.
Sept 2022	**Universal Credit** *(Work Conditionality changes for part-time workers)*	The administrative threshold for earnings and hours - below which workers are required to actively seek more/better paid hours is raised in two steps: • from 26th Sept from 9 hours x NLW if single to 12 hours; and to 19 hours for a couple • from Jan 2023: 15 hours single and 24 for a couple Claimants earning less than this face "All Work Requirements" conditionality as for jobseekers for the rest of the hours set in their Claimant Commitment. Also comes with toughening of sanctions regime.	Creates stress and potential sanctions to people who may be already working all hours they can given: distance, caring responsibilities, childcare, school hours, available work. The cost of living crises also impacts on time available to spend with JC+. As food poverty campaigner Jack Monroe puts it: *"We rarely talk about the mental, physical, organisational and emotional labour, and the sheer amount of time and energy that being careful with money takes."* So time taken travelling to Job Centres, placating UC work coaches etc is lost to planning budget menus, getting to foodbanks, working in community resilience initiatives, insulating and re-organising homes etc. Simply increasing incentives to work – by lower marginal tax rates – is reserved for those earning over £150K. There are no policy /funding to support increased availability, improve incentives, tackle childcare nor end two child limits for low earners.	Contrasts markedly with a simpler financial incentive for earners over £150K, for whom a tax rate of 45% or a cap on bankers' bonuses is seen as unthinkable. By contrast the marginal rate faced by low earners on UC is 55% withdrawal of UC plus 20% or more from CTS from net income. This will be on top of any tax and NI. This is despite the DWP previously pointing out that "Economic theory tells us that incentive effects are strongest at lower incomes". This disproportionately affects women and BME communities who may face greater limits on availability for hours and pay rates
	Latest PIP Stats *(ongoing PIP Trends)*	Confirms patterns in PIP decision making: • 39% of new PIP claims awarded, 69% of DLA to PIP re-assessments. • 78% of awards for 2 years or less • MR decision rates fallen from a high of 60% in July 2021 back down to 23%. DWP say the 60% was an unusual spike re waiving disallowances for not returning a PIP2. • PIP appeals overturn 68% of cases but for DWP this only amounts to 2% of PIP cases. Scotland stats no longer included and will be reported separately by Social Security Scotland	Disappointing to note that intentions of rediscovering the concept of holistic decision making with a view to reducing unnecessary appeals appears to have been forgotten. They did represent a response to Select Committee and Tribunal Service concerns around number of "unnecessary" appeals	DWP notes that the 68% appeal overturn rate only covers some 3% of claims. Some might suggest, that DWP is happy to accept a significant rate of overturn of WCA and PIP appeals, on the basis that only a few claimants will have the time, resilience and determination to get to appeal. It may not make sense for an effective system but does save money ☹. The contrast with Social Security Scotland if it succeeds in its aim to take a more balanced view of decision making will be illuminating as these stats emerge.
Oct 2022	**N. Ireland Welfare Reform Mitigations**	Statutory review of the Welfare Reform Mitigation Measures, from the peace process. Recommends continuation to end date in 2024, but also aiming to offset "two child" limit by: • More support during UC- 5-week wait. • a Better Start Grant for low-income families. • "Carer's Recognition Payment" & higher earnings • Cost of Work Allowance (inc. Job Start) & 6-months underlying UC on starting work. • further support for Winter Fuel costs • better advice sector funding	These would all make a considerable difference and are warmly welcomed by N. Ireland advisers. Some follow some initiatives in place in Scotland or Wales The impacts could be significant, but it would require a functioning NI Assembly to initiate progress. The interim direct rule (and NI precedent) is unlikely to move beyond UK-wide provisions. But food for thought and aspects are in place elsewhere	Unlike significant devolved social security powers in Scotland & more limited ones in Wales, the NI devolved differences are based on an agreed menu of "welfare reform" mitigations, as part of the peace process While de jure NI benefits may be totally separate from the UK, the precedent has been to reproduce and follow UK changes and policy to maintain easy interchangeability across the Irish Sea. Proposals to extend the mitigations are welcomed by N. Ireland advice organisations, but the question remains as to whether there is any chance of these being agreed while the Assembly is not functioning. The recommendations may be of interest across the UK for ideas and campaigns

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Nov 2022	**Autumn Statement 2022** ***(all benefits)***	• **A full 10.1% uprating** of all benefits - except Bereavement Support Payment (still frozen at its 2017 levels, as uprating BSP is discretionary) • **LHA levels** remain frozen. • **Benefits Cap:** a 5-yearly review. Rise of 10.1% to £20,020 (families outside London)/ £25,323 within and £14,753 and £16,967 for singles. A one year catch up, but then refrozen until 2027. • further **Cost of Living Payments** - £150 to disability payments, up to £300 on Winter Fuel Payments, £900 for means tested benefits. • **Energy Price Guarantee** continues to 1st July, but then replaced by usual Ofgem price cap. • rollout of the **In-Work Progression Offer** brought forward to September 2023 affecting 600,000 in-work UC claimants (15 to 35 hours) • delays to **UC managed migration from Ir-ESA** to UC until 2028-29. Others continue 2023/25 • **HB (pension age) & PC** merger not until 28/29 • **Support for Mortgage Interest** reforms: 3-month wait not 9; end of zero earnings rule. • £1 billion to extend **Household Support Fund** • NI thresholds/upper earnings limits fixed until 2028, but **LEL** for 2023/4 frozen at current rates and Class 2 and 3 **NICs** up 10.1% • National Minimum wage up to £10.42 if over 23, but still below Real Living Wage (£10.90 /£11.95)	**Uprating:** a very welcome full uprating (bar BSP) from April 2023 However, the IFS/ Resolution Foundation estimate that catching up won't be complete until a full April 2024 uprating has also taken effect. The usual time lag has been particularly sharp in making April 22 uprating (based on the Sept 21 CPI 3.1%) inadequate. Cost of Living Payments were essential mitigations, but many still struggled as effective inflation rates for those on UC reached 16%+ **Arbitrary Limits:** the 5-yearly review of the Benefits Cap does mean that this year those affected by it – or close to the cap will feel the benefit of uprating increases. However, retention of the "two child policy" and the freeze on LHA (at a time of 29% rent inflation) will eat significantly into household budgets. **Migration delays**: a relief to those on Ir-ESA anxious over change, but • those who might be *better off* under UC should get advice as to whether – and when best – to time their own switchover. • those *losing* in UC sums may need to hang on rather longer to Ir-ESA until the Government is ready to honour the usual "no-one worse off at the point of change". Treasury saves £1 billion pa in unpaid increases/ transitional protection. **Delays to Housing Credit**: keeps PC simpler but loses any positive impact on the merger on poor PC take-up rates. **SMI changes from "Spring 2023"**: SMI has been little used, as it is a loan secured on the property, so of less help to lenders, but where SMI might help, easing restrictions should make a difference. **NI thresholds** freezing will mean a stealth effect in increased NI payments to match those from freezes in income tax thresholds. For those in work, increases to the **National Minimum Wage** will be welcome, although much of that increase is a transfer from employers to Government in reduced UC/WTC. Full NMW applies only if over 23, whereas the **Real Living Wage** is from 18 (and higher in London).	The welcome uprating by 10.1% meant a significant step towards catch up as the lag effect has been particularly strong this year. However, a further lag from another year of high inflation anticipated means people will be feeling the pinch through 2023, although the ongoing Cost of Living Payments will certainly help (especially the increased amounts with low-income benefits). The IFS reckoned it would take another full increase in 2024 to get back to 2022 levels of benefits. There was much flying of flags and consideration of options not to do a full uprating, alongside campaigns to do so, bring back the uplift etc. The concern was based on previous partial /limited upratings (that led to an 8% fall in the real value of basic benefit amounts between 2013 and 2020); and the sheer budgetary impact of meeting the 10.1% in full. The increase to the Benefits Cap is timely, as many will have otherwise missed out on increases. The impact of interest rises – partly global, partly triggered by the September "fiscal event" on ability to fund starter mortgages, landlord costs and market demand has though led to significant inflation in private sector rents – running at 29% in October. Demand for Discretionary Housing Payments may empty local DHP budgets and mean significant difficulty of access and affordability for private tenants reliant on HB/UC The overall economic outlook remains bleak: UK growth rates are negative and behind other G7 countries. With the benefit of OBR forecasts and best guesses, the recession will last 2 years, but there is scope to influence how deep that is. The live debate continues as to whether the only way is to balance the books based on current assumptions or take sensible measures for sustainable economic activity with taxable outcomes within the UK. Inflation is expected to get back into single figures by mid-2023 and return closer to the 2% target in two years' time. But how best to tackle it is also moot.
March 2023	**Spring Budget** ***(all benefits)***	• issued alongside the **Health & Disability White Paper** (see below) Announcements included intention to - • raise the **Administrative Earnings Threshold** below which p/t workers need to job seek to increase hours/increase hourly rate and face the Benefits Cap • strengthened ***Sanctions*** (already running at record levels) via automation and new guidance for UC work coaches to apply more effectively. • More ***support programmes*** for job seeking: for *lead carers* of young children in run up to increased work conditionality, the *Youth Offer*, *Additional Jobcentre Support* pilots (? a restart for Restart); *enhanced 50* + support. • Help with ***UC Childcare Costs*** in the first month via *Flexible Support Fund* grant or *Budgeting Advance* in addition to receiving help with childcare cost through UC award in the same AP. Max amounts increased to £950.92 for one child and £1,630.15 for two or more	See Separate entry below on far reaching implications of the Health & Disability White Paper Raising the administrative earnings threshold from 15 to 18 hours at the NMW for single people and abolishing a separate couple level (it may be 2 x 18 depending on work requirements) means an increase for many households to the hours/rate to secure exemption from all work requirements, sanctions and the benefits cap. Takes it above a historically significant 16 hours which has been a limit for many p/t contracts. No further evidence on effectiveness of sanctions and measures intended at increasing use rather than effectiveness? UC childcare costs – the main computer can't manage to do this in advance – so new ways will help with a real problem area in UC of finding costs up front. A grant from the FSF will really help with usual reclaim of costs meaning funds are then available for the next month' s payment of childcare costs upfront. But must meet criteria: starting a new job or extending hours and need to ask for it; if not (e.g. if newly needing to use paid for childcare in an existing job) help for that first month still available but as a loan only, via a Budgeting Advance	Once again "blame the victim" rhetoric at a problem of people not looking hard enough for work. Historically, research has shown that effective DWP Support Programmes can make a real difference, but compulsion and sanctions make very little difference and may worsen the situation if a claimant cannot afford to eat / get to a job interview. Easier access to support with childcare costs will help break a barrier if childcare is actually available. Could it be more effectively delivered as a social provision?

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2023 to Feb 24	**Cost of Living Payments**	A repeat of the previous Cost of Living Payments **Non means tested:** • *Disability CLP*: an extra £150 in late Summer 2023 • *Pensioner CLP*: the same effective doubling of Winter Fuel Payments in Dec 23 and Jan 24 **Low-income CLP:** A total of £900 over three instalments for those on qualifying low-income benefits: • £301 in April/May 2023 – if eligible 25.04 to 17.05 • £300 in Oct/Nov 23 – if eligible 18.08 to 17.09 • £299 in Feb 2024 – if eligible 13.11 to 12.12.23	A welcome and essential rerun of 2022-23 CLPs, simplified in there being no council tax payments or Energy Price Guarantee (now that the usual Ofgem Price Cap applies) The low-income CLP is higher than the previous £650 and is payable in three, rather than two instalments. Different amounts help identify which payment is being referred to. As before, a backdated entitlement to a qualifying benefit can bring someone into payment even if sorted after the qualifying dates as long as it applies retrospectively to a time within these dates. They would need to apply specifically for a CLP. e.g. a person over pension age claiming PC up until 11.03 24, could (if PC backdated for 3 months) claim the £299 CLP	These make a big difference to the time lag effects of benefits uprating and even with benefits back at 2022 levels after April 2024 uprating, to helping with much higher effective inflation rates at the lowest incomes
Aug 2023	**Integration of health assessments**	DWP Health Transformation Programme, reviewing the whole process for health assessments. Key features of the '*integrated assessment*' include: • choice of channel – F2F, phone, video • single IT system • use of evidence • one case manager throughout process • co-location of case managers and HCPs	Currently organisations are tendering for contracts which will be split geographically – • London and the Southeast • the Southwest • Midlands and Wales • the North and Scotland (NB disability assessments are devolved) • Northern Ireland	Originally billed as a combined assessment for both PIP and WCAs, the DWP now say instead that there will be two separate assessments but carried out by the same contractor. Therefore, where a claimant has already had an assessment for one benefit, it is likely that there will be sufficient information from that and that submitted by the claimant along with any other evidence to make a decision without need for a new assessment. The process is currently being trialled in Marylebone London and a few postcode areas in Birmingham

April 2023 to April 2025	**Managed Migration to UC**
	(1st & 2nd phase)
		1st phase -2023-24 tax credit only
		• Aim is to conclude this nationally by April 2024 (even though some areas may have just started)
		• **2nd phase 2024-25** remaining tax credits (e.g. where another legacy benefit e.g. HB in payment) And then all the other legacy benefits. DWP plans to start:
		  ○ Income Support (from April)
		  ○ HB only and Ir-ESA (with CTC) from June
		  ○ Ib-JSA - from September
		• 3rd phase 2028-29 However most Ir-ESA claims will wait until then for MM notices.
		• ***Unless*** they also receive another legacy benefit (apart from HB) e.g. an Ir-ESA claimant who also received CTC will receive a Migration Notices in the latter part of the 2nd phase.
		• At the time of starting the roll out of managed migration, some 2.6 million legacy benefit claims are still awaiting a switch to UC: 1.0 million are workers on tax credits, 1.2 million on Ir-ESA, 200,000 on IS and a 100,000 each on Ib-JSA and HB only (usually workers with income too high for TC)
		
		See https://www.rightsnet.org.uk/resources/uc-managed-migration-overview for an overview of the roll out of managed migration
			Start of roll out varies by areas – e.g. in Wales 3 start dates: SW Wales from Aug 2023; SE Wales from Oct 23 and Mid & N. Wales from Feb 2024. But once started, priority is by main legacy benefit ***not*** geography.
			• ***Warm up*** info in leaflets, legacy benefit letters etc.
			• **Migration Notice** gives minimum 3 months to "deadline day" (DD) on which legacy benefits will stop unless UC claim made. If you miss DD, there is still a month to rescue MM protections.
			• **That 3 months could be used to:** allow for access to advice & support; act to maximise legacy entitlement (and resulting TE) & time UC claim to when client ready, changes in earnings etc.
			• **Note**: even actions that are not completed within the 3 months (e.g. a PIP/ADP application leading to SDP)) can have a retrospective effect on legacy entitlement and then lead to a recalculation of TE
			• **Extensions/postponement** – 4-week extensions possible (more than once) but MUST be applied for before deadline day. Can also seek deferral to later in MM timetable (but this is unlikely)
			• **Automatic backdating:** up to a month if deadline day/extensions missed. This may be vital to retaining a link to legacy benefits and MM protections: right to TP, the 2-week run on, for WCA status and other acquired entitlements to move across.
			• The link can thus be retained until Final Deadline Day: the last date of the UC MAP *had* a claim been made on deadline day. Miss FDD and a UC claim will be just another new claim without any MM protections with missed money in between and a need to go through a new WCA and wait for any increase.
			• **Managed Migration** hotline – **0800 169 0328** - to take queries on the process, seek extensions etc.
			• **How to claim UC:** same process as any new UC claim except UC will know managed migration and above provisions apply. DWP are keen to avoid people falling off benefit and to offer more support than usual with UC claims.
				Different issues likely for different groups of claimants:
				• **Workers on tax credits:** more winners than losers – DWP reckon 70-30 (mainly due to UC tapers lower than HB). But extra issues for: those with savings, the self-employed (monthly reporting, greater variation, the Minimum Income Floor), disabled workers
				• **Disabled children** UC child disability additions ***less*** than CTC
				• **Carers:** *working carers* **gain** from access to a carer element, but *carers with health issues* **lose,** as same person cannot get both UC LC and carer elements. UC carer element directly affects SDP unlike carer's premium.
				• **Mixed age couples**: if on a legacy benefit, really need full TE of an MM.
				• **Ir-ESA: 55% gain, 45% lose** – mainly depends on EDP/SDP entitlement. If entitled, may need full TE from MM. If **not** entitled and better off on UC, consider early voluntary migration (after checking SDP potential). Avoid any gap to preserve WCA status & WRAC entitlement. Note White Paper changes could be in place by 2028-29.
				Transitional Protection calculations problems:
				UC computer does not appear to give the same results suggested by the regs nor give a full breakdown of the sums. Migrations from TC can have more issues but problems seem to be applying to DWP legacy benefits too. DWP guidance issued in December 23 (but high level). More detailed DWP responses to come.
				Useful Resources:
				• Rightsnet Managed Migration Forum
				• CPAG article in WRB 297 describes how transitional protection calculations should work done.
				• CPAG Migration to UC – resources and information
				• The UC (Transitional Protection) Regulations 2022 set out the Regs
				• DWP Guidance from Advice to Decision Makers available at Chapter M7: Managed Migration and Transitional Protection

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
Nov 2023	**Consultation on changes to the Work Capability Assessment**	UK government response to consultations sets out intentions for changes for new assessments from September 2025: • ***Mobilizing*** – keep LCW descriptors, but remove LCWRA descriptor (DWP say any exceptional cases where mobility does cause LCWRA could come under "substantial risk" • ***Getting around:*** keep top scoring descriptors but reduce points for lower scoring descriptors. • **Bladder & Bowel Control** and **Social Engagement:** descriptors to remain unchanged. • Tighter regs and guidance for LCWRA **"substantial risk"** to emphasise this is only meant for exceptional circumstances. • ***Change to LC group names*** to *"Work Preparation"* Group and *"Health"* group, alongside roll out of increased support into work for those with health issues. • ***Chance to Work Guarantee*** to reduce extent of re-assessment when a WCA will be triggered on attempting work	OBR estimate these changes will **remove 370,000** from current claimant count for limited capability, The work requirement groups are retained albeit renamed – Work Preparation and Health Support - in a back to the future re-adoption of ESA style labels to accentuate the positive. The DWP target is not just to reduce overall numbers with LC, but also to reduce the proportion with LCWRA. The consultation contrasts the current 65% found to have LCWRA to the 2011 figure of 21% Changes accompanied by rhetoric around welfare to work and increased support (such as the re-emergence of *Universal Support* name as an "into work" scheme The Chance to Work Guarantee may help with the increased worry around trying out work – as health allows – in UC compared with the more secure, separated and better incentivised ESA permitted work. And further support into work for those for whom it feels a realistic option may be welcomed. But such plans programmes work best as support and mentoring rather than forced and punitive	Overall aim is to reduce numbers passing the WCA and particularly the proportion getting LCWRA/Support Group status. Some real resources and expansion of schemes to better support a move into work, but alongside some conflation with increased rhetorical expectations on jobseekers. It may be that 20% of the current LCWRA/Support Group are actively interested in moving into work, but that also means that for 80%, their health may not allow them to. Concern that substantial risk is a safety net for some of the most vulnerable – removing that criteria for many will lead to a reduction of income and increased conditionality bringing in risks of self-harm, self-neglect or worse. A re-balancing of % between the two groups may also require some rethinking of the level of support offered in the LCW group and the need for an ESA WRAC / LCW element. Is it a case of too many being found to have LCWRA or too many being found fit for work rather than LCW? The "softening up" of the work requirement distinctions could be seen as a prelude to the White Paper proposals to do away with them altogether?
Nov 2023	**Autumn Statement** ***(all benefits)***	• Benefits uprating (see separate line for April 2024) • Announcements of increase in NMW to 11.44 ph and extension of its application down to age 21 • Other announcements around increased pressure on jobseekers and changes to WCA, with those with limited capability being talked of more as jobseekers too. • Cuts in non-protected budgets will affect other services & support for those on low incomes. • Increased MIF for lead carers of children aged 3-12 from April 2024	The NMW increases may be felt and welcomed by many low earners. Others though will just see a redistribution from their employer to the Government as increase earnings meet lower UC entitlement. Impacts will be felt from positive employment support programmes and unproven faith in punitive sanctions, while tightening the WCA may reduce both claimant count and the numbers receiving extra support via ESA Support Component/UC LCWRA element.	Parallel announcements and rhetoric around changes to the WCA and the Back to Work Plan make it clear that the Government wishes to keep up downward pressure on numbers and a conditional/punitive approach
Feb 2024	**SDP Transitional Element** ***(Universal Credit)***	• Additional amounts will be added to current SDP Transitional Element for new claims from 14.02.2024 – existing claims will not yet receive the top up. • High Court confirmed that previous rulings required the SoSWP to put people affected by loss of DP/EDP &SDP in the same position as someone getting full managed migration TP (however they switch to UC) • DWP will add amounts to existing SDP TE • Single *(*joint claim amount in brackets)* £84 *(*£120)* if legacy benefit included an EDP; £172 *(*£246)* if a DP; £177 *(*£177)* if legacy benefit included a child disability premium/addition. • Claimants must have received an SDP Transitional Element to be topped up, so this protection would not apply to someone who had EDP, DP or DCP only without SDP. They still need full TE from a managed migration	The whole point of an initial SDP Gateway to ban switches to UC by people with an SDP was to allow time for the UC computer to have the facility to do a full TE calculation. Yet come that time, DWP decided to use a special fixed rate lower than what would be awarded by a full TE calculation. So now migrations other than managed ones get some protection – a fuller amount for SDP itself and if protected due to loss of SDP – additional amounts for other disability losses. But the essential disability discrimination remains for those only affected by losses from other disability premiums. They need to hold on until an MM allows full TE as will those with non-disability losses. And for claimants who already had the transitional DWP element before 14/2/24, it's a waiting game to see when the DWP will eventually implement it and whether they will backdate to when the claimant first moved to UC	A long running saga of DWP trying to limit the implications of adverse Court decisions by keeping this to the narrowest interpretation of losses directly attributable to SDP only. Aim was to exclude any losses relating to the loss of other disability premiums and arrive at a figure linked only to direct loss from SDP. In many cases, the differences in amount have been in the failure to cover the EDP. The number of cases and the savings from this short-changing are relatively small. JRs do not tell the Government what to do directly but set out what needs to happen for the DWP to no longer be guilty of "unlawful disability discrimination". The DWP never intended there to be any transitional protection outside of managed migrations and have been seeking to limit such enforced protection An unedifying spectacle comes to an end, but many people still need to hang on until offered a Managed Migration to get full protection

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis

March 2024	**Spring Budget** *(all benefits)*	• Extension of maximum **repayment period for UC APs** from 12 months to 24 months
		• Increased **resources to process disability benefit** claims, in the light of growing claim nos.
		• additional **Job Centre support pilots** to test effect of 2-weeks intense at 6, 13 & 26 weeks.
		• Extension of the **Household Support Fund**: £500m over 6 months to Sept. 2024
		• changes to **Child Benefit** recovery from 04.25
		  ○ income to be taken as household total.
		  ○ recovery to start from £60K and at a less steep taper so full recovery not until £80K
			Will reduce the recovery rate from UC but extend period of being paid under UC levels.
			Will mean disability benefits better able to cope with increased demand.
			Pilots are to see whether a 2-week period of more intensive support / jobseeking activity makes an impact on finding work. Now at 3 key dates rather than the original 6 weeks.
			Vital additional help can continue as a rolling off of support since the end of Cost of Living Payments
			Changes in the recovery of Child Benefit means many parents on higher incomes than now, no longer lose their CHB via increased income tax. Couples with each partner earning under £50K may lose
				Small but important changes. Repayments of APs has been a big driver in food bank useage. Even before the inadequacy of even full payments of UC to cover a basics essential budget according to JRF & the Trussell Trust
				Experience of the pilots will determine impact for claimants and outcomes on jobseeking – at least evidence based unlike e.g. sanctions.
				The worst may be over in inflation and a full 6.7% benefits uprating may get benefits back to 2022 levels, but with no more CLPs, continuing HSF support remains vital.
				Changes in recovery levels for CHB will benefit many middle-income families, though some will lose. See more in CPAG's Post-Budget Briefing

April 2024	**Benefits Uprating**	• Benefits uprated by full 6.7% but triple lock based on average earnings of 8.5% • LHA unfrozen for one year only to restore to lowest 30% in local area- but then to be refrozen. • Benefit Cap remains at last year's level until 2027.	As last year much speculation as to whether the not inconsiderable budgetary impact of full uprating would be met. Doing so will enable a full catch up to April 2022 levels, But along the way, claimants may have got into serious debt issues. Unfreezing LHA (albeit just for a year) will make it possible to find places within the lowest 30% of rents, but a return to freeze may make the impact temporary and may not encourage increases in supply.	The Government has form for partial implementation of uprating, through freezes and limits that led to an ***8% fall*** in the real value of basic personal allowances between 2013 and 2020. As the IFS pointed out a full implementation was necessary to catch up with 2022 levels LHA increases – to get back to the bottom 30% will make a real difference at a time of soaring rent inflation and lack of supply. Some 65% of UC claimants face rent shortfalls averaging £35 a week. But relief this year will soon fade as the freeze returns next year and the one-off nature of the increase may limit any positive effects on supply. Time to relook at the more cost-efficient social housing?
2026 to 2029	**Health & Disability White Paper** *(sickness & disability benefits)*	• White Paper ***published*** in March 2023, but currently just a proposal. But note changes to WCA above. • Potential ***Roll out from*** 2026-27 at earliest – details tbc – full roll out planned by 2029. • replace WCA with ***PIP status*** to determine entitlement to a new "Health" element in UC. • ***transitional protection*** for those receiving LCW & LCWRA elements at the point of change. • Ends WCA for UC. but retains it for C-ESA • also ***ends UC work requirement groups***; a *"personalised health conditionality approach"* to apply instead at discretion of UC work coach. • ***changes to PIP***: a *Severe Disability Group* to have less frequent re-assessments; an *Enhanced Support Service* to help with claims. • ***Extra support into work***: the forgotten *Universal Support* reappears as a support into work for those with health issues; further *work with employers* to raise awareness and availability of reasonable adjustments.	The big benefits headline is the potential abolition of the WCA and with it the additional elements and the related work requirement groups. Impact may depend on current position: • ***1.2 million only get extra help from passing the WCA***: will they pass the different and longer-term criteria for PIP? Will they worry at loss of certainty in current work conditionality group? • ***1 million have both LCW / LCWRA and get PIP***: may be relieved at only having one health assessment and find it easier to try work as health allows. But may also worry re work conditionality. • ***0.8 million get PIP but do not have LCW/LCWRA:*** clear winners as UC would at last pay an adult disability element. A gain for people with disabilities who claim UC as workers, jobseekers, carers or lone parents. Improvements in the experience of making and maintaining a PIP claim can only be welcome as can be any extra resources fand support for people voluntarily seeking work as their health allows	**Winners and losers from this change.** UC would finally plug its "disability gap" as shown in the current absurdity of people migrating from WTC with a disabled worker element needing to prove LCWRA (under the WCA) on their way to a possibly full-time job. Others with a disability – but who also do not/would not see it as relevant to undergo a WCA – will also get some extra UC financial recognition. But UC opens up a new "sickness gap" now ending any extra entitlement for people who may not meet PIP criteria or whose health issues are not sufficiently long term for PIP. UC originally proposed to have a two-tier sickness element running alongside a simplified two-tier adult disability element. This would have avoided both of these "gaps" and made UC a more comprehensive benefit. It is not just an issue of financial gain or loss, but also one of trust in work conditionality becoming a matter of UC Work Coach discretion (as currently happens when awaiting a first WCA under UC) rather than within boundaries such as the LCW & LCWRA groups. If implemented - and along the proposed timetable – the new elements and work conditionality would be in place just as most managed migrations from Ir-ESA to UC are due to happen. So previous relief that WCA status travels with you over to UC, may be lost for those not entitled to PIP. But this group may be potential winners under current UC sums and may choose voluntary migration before the changes.

Date	Benefit	Change	Impact	Analysis
April 2028 to 2029	**Pension Credit** ***(Housing Credit)***	A new 'Housing Credit' within Pension Credit to replace Housing Benefit (in pension age) during 2028/29. New claims to HB until then.	A person may be eligible for the PC Housing Credit even if they can't get Guarantee or Savings credit. (in the same way as HB now)	Potentially a different calculation for PC Housing Credit from rest of PC as s DWP merge the different calculation and rules of HB into PC.
	Managed migration to UC ***(3rd phase)***	• Majority of people still claiming Ir-ESA – i.e. those just claiming Ir-ESA (or just with HB) • Delay for purely financial reasons but may allow more support for this group. • Legacy benefits abolished from April 2029	Primary reason is financial as this will save around £1 billion per year: • Those gaining from a switch to UC might delay migration. • Those losing may be more likely to undergo a natural/voluntary protection with reduced/no transitional protection. • Less UC work coach resource needed by running different phases. BUT as a by-product – a chance for DWP to test and learn from Phases 1 & 2 and to be more experienced and better able to support vulnerable customers in Phase 3 DWP estimate that of the 1.2 million people currently awaiting a migration from Ir-ESA to UC, only 600,000 will remain when this phase of managed migration begins.	For many a welcome relief in not having to face the change. Also more time to stay on legacy benefits with annual increases, for those who will have to rely on TP to make up for lost SDP. One promise has been that at least this migration does not require the anxiety (& for some trauma) of a new health assessment, as ESA and UC currently use the exact same WCA. So, currently WCA status carries over on a move from Ir-ESA to UC without a break. But now: 1. that WCA will have changed, so if not already re-assessed, a move to UC could be a time for such a re-assessment. 2. by 2028-29 – depending on the roll out of White Paper proposals- UC may well be using different criteria for its new "health elements" replacing LCW/LCWRA i.e. PIP status, meaning new ***winners*** and ***losers.*** Concerns around the "*personalised flexible health conditionality*" regime removing the certainties of being in the LCW/LCWRA group.
	Migration from Adult DLA to PIP/ADP	• Resumption of unfinished move of those of working age in 2013 from Adult DLA to PIP/ADP • 375,000 still to switch but resumption delayed while PIP overcame first backlog in new claims, then backlog in re-assessments.	Those affected may have been happy to avoid the uncertainty of a switch from Adult DLA to PIP/ADP.? an easier journey under ADP. As before, when reliability fully considered scope to gain on change (e.g. where severity of difficulties for part of the day or move up from Lowest Care) or to *lose* (if less severe but issues day and night or cannot get above Lowest Care) Delays mean some people will be migrating at age 79	One million who were over the then cut off age of 65 (at 8.04.2013) stayed with adult DLA and can seek changes (under DLA rules) if needs be. The hopes of considerable savings from migration for those of "working age" did not survive high appeal success rates and the proper implementation of reliably. On the way, various attempts to get those savings led to Court battles and a resignation of an Sof S. Those migrating now should at least avoid unlawful disability discrimination on Mobility, but may still need to be prepared to go all the way to appeal