



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# How we want to make the benefits system better

## The Health and Disability Green Paper

### Chapter 5

# Making the benefits system better for the future



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## Making the benefits system better for the future



This chapter thinks about things that could make the benefits system better.



The **benefits system** means the way different types of benefits are managed and paid.

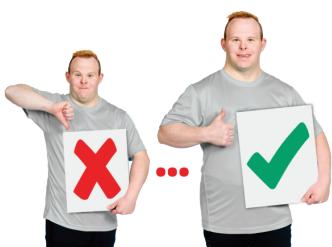
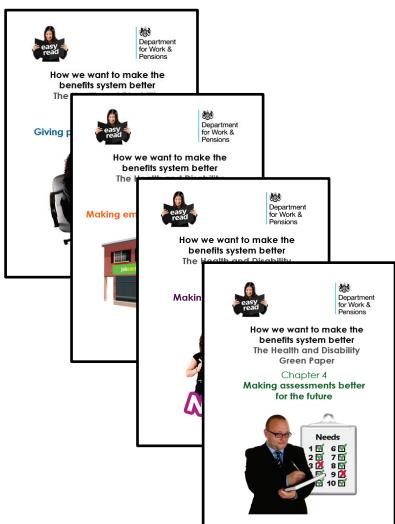


We want the benefits system to be good for disabled people and people with health conditions.



We want the benefits system to spend money in the best way.

# The current benefits system



The other chapter booklets tell you how we want to make the **current** benefits system better.

The **current** benefits system means the benefits system we have at the moment.

This chapter tells you about big changes we could make to the current benefits system to make it different and better for the future.



The current benefits system has 2 main types of health and disability benefit. These are benefits

- for people who have a disability or a health condition that affects them being able to work and who are unemployed or get a low income.
- to help with extra costs for disabled people and people with health conditions.

# Why big changes are needed



We want to support more disabled people and people with health conditions to start jobs, stay in jobs and do well in jobs.



We know work gives people money and helps them to feel better about their lives.



You told us

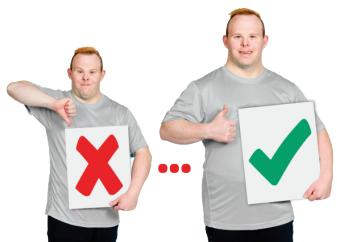
- it is hard to understand what each type of benefit is for.
- you worry we will stop your benefits if you get ready to work.
- you want benefits to be more **flexible** when you start work or stop getting benefits. **Flexible** means not fixed.
- you want the benefits system to be more flexible and think about what each person needs.





## The disability employment gap

The **disability employment gap** is the difference between the number of non-disabled people and disabled people who have a job.



Employment for disabled people has got better but the disability employment gap is still more than we want it to be.



At the moment about 29% more non-disabled people have jobs than disabled people.

## The ESA Support Group and the LCWRA part of UC

Nearly 2 million people are in the **ESA** Support Group or get the **LCWRA** part of **UC**.



**ESA** is short for **Employment Support Allowance**.

**LCWRA** is short for **limited capability for work and work related activity**.

**UC** is short for **Universal Credit**.



People in the ESA Support Group or who get the LCWRA part of UC don't have to look for work or get ready to work.



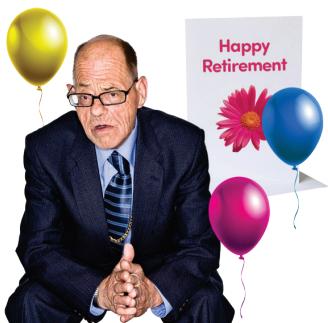
We know some people in these groups would like to work. We want to find ways to help them work.



## How much money we spend

The amount we spend on health and disability benefits has gone up. This is because

- more people need health and disability benefits.
- The age people can get their **state pension** has gone up which means people need to get benefits for longer.



**State pension** is money you get from the government when you stop work at a certain age.



We want to make sure we spend money in the best way to support people to work and to live independent lives.



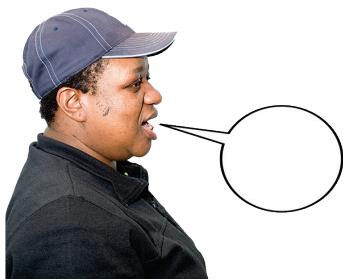
## Making the benefits system easier



If you get PIP and either ESA or the LCW or LCWRA parts of UC you have to do a claim and an assessment for each benefit.



This can be confusing and difficult to do.



You told us you want it to be easier to get your benefits.



One idea is to have a new single benefit. This could have 1 application and assessment.



## Supporting people to try work



We know people worry they won't get their benefits if they think about getting ready to work.



We want to **encourage** and support people to work if they can or if they want to. **Encourage** means help people understand it could be good for them.



We want to help people **adjust** when their benefits change. **Adjust** means get used to a change.



We want to hear ideas about what changes to benefits would encourage people to get ready for work if they can.



## Supporting people with extra costs



We want to find out if there are better ways for the benefits system to support people with any extra costs they need to live independent lives.



We want to find out if there are certain things people would like to get instead of cash benefits.



We want to think about how changes to the benefits system will affect other benefits and support for disabled people and people with health conditions.

# Tell us what you think



We want you to tell us what you think about our Green Paper.



We have written some questions for you to answer about Chapter 5.



The questions are in the coloured pages of this booklet.



You can answer the questions on your computer or you can write your answers with a pen in a paper version.

# How to answer the questions



## If you answer the questions on a computer

- Click the box under each question and type your answer.
- When you have finished email your answers to us at this address  
**[healthanddisability.consultation@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:healthanddisability.consultation@dwp.gov.uk)**



## If you answer the questions with a pen

- Write your answer in the box under each question.
- When you have finished post your answers to us at this address



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# Question 1



**How can we make the process simpler for people applying for more than 1 health and disability benefit?**

## Question 2



**How can we help people understand the rules of Universal Credit and how it can make it easier to try out work?**

## Question 3



**How can we change the current benefits system so people aren't worried about losing their benefits if they want to get ready to work?**

## Question 4



**How can we change the current benefits system so it is easier for people to manage changes to the amount of benefits they get?**

## Question 5



**How can we be better at supporting people with any extra costs they need to live independent lives?**

## Question 6



**Should the Department for Work and Pensions (called DWP for short) make it easier for people to access practical support? Tell us why you think this.**

## Question 7



**What types of practical support  
should we help people access?**

**Thank you for answering the questions**