



Easy Read



# About changing the benefits system

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July 2010

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

When we first mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing.  
A box then shows what the words mean.

# Changing the benefits system

At the moment, our **benefits system** can mean that some people think they are better off getting benefits than getting a job.

## Benefits system

The benefits system gives money to people when they do not have enough money for housing or food. People with children and some people in low paid work can also get extra money, which is called Tax Credits.



We want to help people to get a job and to do well in that job. We also want to look after those people who need a lot of help.

We are thinking about making big changes to the **benefits system**.

We have written a booklet about changing the **benefits system**. This booklet does these things.

- It says what is wrong with the **benefits system**.
- It says what we think the **benefits system** should be trying to do.
- It says how the **benefits system** may be made better.
- It says what we will need to do to get a **benefits system** for the 21st Century.

We think the changes that have been made in the past have not been enough to help people.

We want to make sure that government looks after those people who do not have much money. We want people to feel happy about looking for work and getting a job.



We want to make sure the **benefits system** is fair to people who do not get paid very much or do not have a job.

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The booklet we have written gives examples of the changes we are thinking about. Some other organisations have also given us some ideas and we also talk about these.

These big changes could help us to do things like making sure that people have more money if they have a job and that everyone can see they would be better off working.

We will do this by making new rules that say how much of their earnings people can keep before they start to lose their benefit. As people earn more money we will take more benefit off them.



These new rules would mean that people starting work would get more money. It will also make the **benefits system** much simpler and easier to understand.

We do not want to give less help to people who really need it. But we need to make sure we are helping the right people.

We are also looking at how we can use computers to make parts of the **benefits system** automatic so that it is quick and easy for people to get help.

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Doing these things will

- make people want to work
- mean the **benefits system** works quicker and is easier to use
- mean the **benefits system** does not cost as much to run.

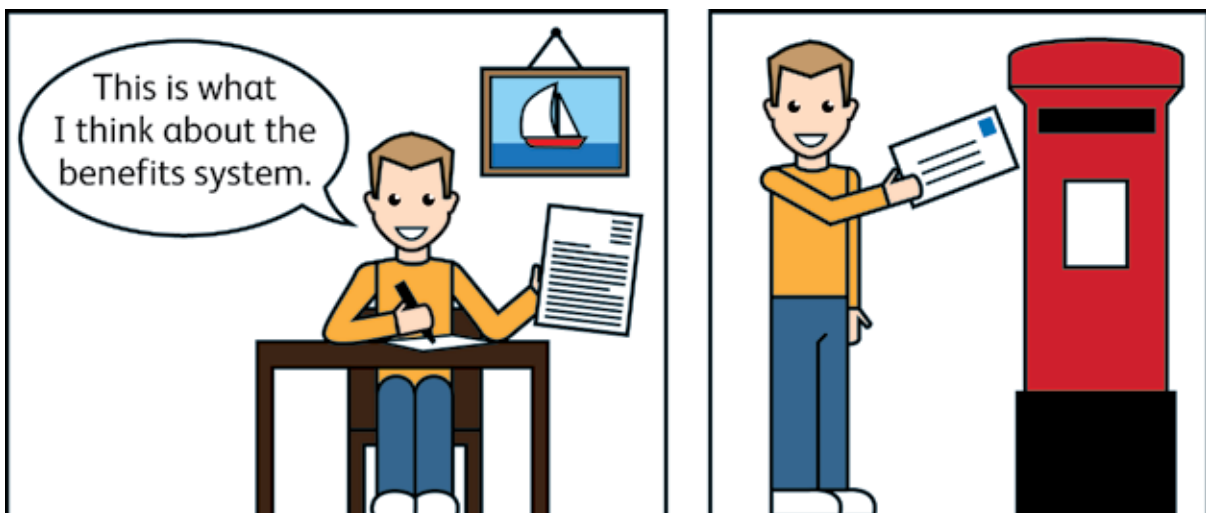
But first we want people to tell us what they think about these changes. This is called a **consultation**.

## Consultation

This is when we ask people what they think about things, like our plans.

When we know what people think about these changes we can look at changing the law by early next year.

We would like to hear from you to find out what you think and if you have any ideas on how we should change the **benefits system** to make it pay for people to go to work.



## Where to send your comments

This **consultation** will finish on 1 October 2010. It is important that you tell us what you think by that date.

The address to send your comments or thoughts is

Benefit Reform Division  
Department for Work and Pensions  
1st Floor  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London SW1H 9NA

If you prefer you can send us an email. Our email address is

[benefit.reform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:benefit.reform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Please tell us if the answers are your own or those of a group. If the answers are those of a group, please tell us about the kinds of people in the groups, and how you brought together the answers from the group.

Thank you for helping us with this **consultation**.

If you need more of these easy-read reports, please contact us. Our address is shown below. Easy-read reports are free.

If you want the full report written in English, you can buy them at TSO bookshops. TSO is sometimes called The Stationery Office. You can also get the full report in English free at **[www.dwp.gov.uk/21st-century-welfare](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/21st-century-welfare)**

If you want a summary of the full report in Welsh, you can get it free at **[www.dwp.gov.uk/21st-century-welfare](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/21st-century-welfare)**

Copies of the full report can be made available in other alternative formats on request. Contact details are shown below.

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