Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Circular

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

HB/CTB A1/2012

ADJUDICATION AND OPERATIONS CIRCULAR

WHO SHOULD READ	All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff
ACTION	For information
SUBJECT	Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit: 2012/13 Uprating

Guidance Manual

The information in this circular affects the content of the

- HB/CTB Guidance Manual. Please annotate this circular number against paragraph A4 4.750, 4.910, A5 Annexe A and Annexe D, BW3 Annexe A and BP3 Annexe A.
- *HB/CTB Overpayments Guide*. Please annotate this circular number against paragraphs 4.430 4.432.

Queries

If you

- want extra copies of this circular/copies of previous circulars, they can be found on the website at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/user-communications/hbctb-circulars/
- have any queries about the
 - technical content of this circular, contact Jahnara Begum

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Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit: 2012/13 uprating

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Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB): 2012/13 uprating

Introduction

- 1. In his oral statement to Parliament on 6 December 2011, the Minister of State for Pensions announced his proposals for the social security benefit rates that will apply from April 2012. Details of all the social security benefit rates can be found on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website.
- 2. This circular advises you of the rates so you can take the appropriate action.
 - **Note**: At the time of writing, the Order bringing the changes into effect is still subject to the appropriate Parliamentary process.
- 3. Any queries about the information contained in the circular should be emailed to Jahnara Begum: jahnara.begum@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Background

- 4. In line with previous practice, the HB and CTB uprating will be introduced in advance of the setting of the main social security benefit rates. To coincide with the new Council Tax year and the week in which many rents change, the 2012 uprating will take effect on:
 - Sunday 1 April 2012 for CTB cases
 - Sunday 1 April 2012 for cases to which Housing Benefit Regulation 79(3)(a) (for working age customers) and Housing Benefit (SPC) Regulation 59(3)(a) (for people who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) applies, when rent is paid monthly or at any interval which is not a week or multiples of a week.
 - Monday 2 April 2012 for cases to which Housing Benefit Regulation 79(3)(a) (for working age customers) and Housing Benefit (SPC) Regulation 59(3)(a) (for people who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit) applies, when rent is paid on a weekly basis (or multiple of a week).
- 5. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rate for September 2011 will be used as the measurement of prices for the uprating of most benefits. Therefore most benefits, including working age HB and CTB, will be increased by 5.2 per cent. The uprating of State Retirement Pension (SRP) and State Pension Credit (SPC) is detailed below, along with its effect on pension age HB and CTB uprating.
- 6. The appendices to this circular set out the new rates of benefits as follows:
 - Appendix A sets out the new rates for CTB and HB for those who have not attained the qualifying age for SPC
 - Appendix B sets out the new rates for HB and CTB for those who have attained the qualifying age for SPC
 - Appendix C sets out the new rates for Income Support (IS), Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

- Appendix D sets out the new rates for other contributory and non-contributory social security benefits
- Appendix E sets out the new rates for Tax Credits and Child Benefit (ChB), main National Insurance Contributions and War Pensions.

Uprating of other income-related social security benefits

- 7. The 2012 uprating for the other income-related benefits IS, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)) and the majority of other social security benefits is **Monday 9 April 2012**. This is the first Monday in the fiscal year, i.e. the first Monday on or after 6 April.
- 8. The SPC standard minimum guarantee has been uprated at least in line with earnings since its introduction in 2003, and the Pensions Act 2007 requires that this is done. The April 2012 increase of 3.9% in the standard minimum guarantee ensures that the single rate of the standard minimum guarantee increases by the same cash rate as a Category A State Pension. As announced in the 2011 Uprating oral statement, the savings credit maximum amount is being reduced (see paragraph 45).
- 9. HB and /CTB applicable amounts for those of SPC age reflect the appropriate amounts used in SPC, and will be increased in line with the SPC rates.
- 10. The following Regulations allow you to take account of these rates earlier in April:
 - CTB 2006 Regs 32(8) and 67(4)
 - HB 2006 Regs 42(8) and 79(3)
 - CTB(SPC) Regs 31(9) and 31(10) and 50(4)
 - HB(SPC) Regs 41(9) and 41(10) and 59(3)
- 11. Associated guidance is set out in *HB/CTB Guidance Manual BW2 W2.790* and at *BP2 P2.790*.

Uprating of non income-related social security benefits

- 12. Non income-related social security benefits will be uprated by the September CPI of 5.2%.
- 13. In line with the last two years, the higher and middle rate invalidity allowances and age additions payable with Incapacity Benefit (IB) continue to be decreased as part of plans to align rates prior to migration to ESA.

Uprating of social security benefits – general

14. There is no provision in regulations to uprate a customer's social security benefit other than by using the correct amount. Most customers will know their rates of benefit well before 1 April each year. As there is no tolerance rule in HB/CTB, the

- benefit paid should reflect the customer's income to the penny, subject to the minimum payment rule in HB and rounding.
- 15. We are aware that many local authorities' (LA) IT systems apply a percentage increase to uprate income from other social security benefits in the assessment of HB/CTB. In previous years, we have advised that as this method should, in most cases, produce accurate results, providing the LA has satisfied itself as to the accuracy of its method, it should be able to meet its duty to make proper determinations.
- 16. However, given the fact that in recent years some of the components paid in addition to the main rate of some benefits and the main rates themselves have been uprated by different indices, LAs should consider carefully whether applying standard percentages will result in correct determinations.
- 17. LAs should also take into account that, from December 2012, specific Automatic Transfer to LA Systems (ATLAS) uprating notifications will be issued for all benefits on the Customer Information System (CIS), except Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Carers Allowance (CA). Should an LA decide to apply a percentage increase to uprate income, **as a minimum** any information subsequently received via ATLAS should be compared with existing LA system data to ensure it matches.
- 18. In September 2011 the percentages were

• RPI: 5.6 per cent

ROSSI: 6.8 per cent

CPI: 5.2 per cent

Tax Credits

- 19. Any changes to Working Tax Credit (WTC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) (see Appendix E: Annexe 1) will be effective from 6 April 2012 in line with the start of the new tax year.
- 20. Tax credits rates will increase from 6 April and although the instalment paid at that time will include the uprated amount it is still only a provisional payment until HM Revenues and Customs make any adjustments in June and issue a final decision. LAs should take into account as income the actual instalment paid to the customer shown on the current award notice. LAs should look at the tax credit received, and if there is an increase or decrease in an instalment being paid then this is what needs to be taken into account.

War Pensions

21. Basic War Disablement Pension, War Widow(er)'s Pension and associated allowances will increase from 2012 by 5.2 per cent, reflecting the CPI rate for September 2011.

- 22. War Pensions will be uprated during week commencing 9 April 2012. As they are not social security benefits, *HB Reg 42(8)* (for working age) and *HB (SPC) Reg 41(9)* (for those who have attained the qualifying age for SPC) and *CTB Reg 32(8)* (for working age) and *CTB (SPC) Reg 31(9)* (for those whom have attained the qualifying age for SPC) do not apply. They are instead treated as income subject to normal change of circumstance rules. Therefore, as War Pensions will be uprated during w/c 9 April 2012, the effective date of change in HB/CTB will be the following Monday 16 April 2012.
- 23. Details of War Pension rates for 2012/13 can be found at Appendix E, Annexe 3. Additional information may be obtained from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency website: www.veterans-uk.info

Specific points of interest

Non-dependant deductions and AMCTB

- 24. In the June 2010 Budget, the Chancellor announced that the rates of non-dependant deductions (NDDs) would be increased over the next three years to match the level they would have been had they not been frozen since April 2001. Restoring the level is intended to mean a fairer deal for taxpayers and provide an expectation that adults make a reasonable contribution towards their housing costs.
- 25. Therefore, in the second of three uprating rounds to achieve this, both NDD rates and income bandwidths will be increased from April 2012 (see Appendix A: Annexes 1 and 2 and Appendix B).
- 26. Income bands, including those used to determine Alternative Maximum Council Tax Benefit (AMCTB), will be increased in line with average increases in earnings.

Dependent Children Allowances: income-related benefits

27. Dependent children allowances in IS, JSA, ESA, HB and CTB will be increased in line with the weekly child element of Child Tax Credit (CTC) plus the ChB rate for subsequent children.

Family Premium

28. The Family Premium in HB and CTB remains unchanged at £17.40 to align it with the family element of CTC plus the ChB rate for the eldest child less the ChB rate for subsequent children. The specific rate that applies to certain lone parents remains at a fixed weekly rate of £22.20. This rate only applies to lone parents who fulfilled certain conditions before 6 April 1998. See HB Regs Schedule 3, Para 3(3) and CTB Regs Schedule 1, Para 3(3).

Family Premium Baby Element (FPBE)

29. As advised in <u>Circular A11/2011</u>, the Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Regulations (S.I. 2011/2425) withdrew the FPBE by removing the relevant provisions in the HB/CTB Regulations from 31.10.11. This follows last year's abolition of the Family Element Baby Element of CTC for children under the age of one.

Child Dependency increases

- 30. The Child Dependency increase remains at £11.35.
- 31. The eldest child rate remains at £8.10.
- 32. Regulations provide for the rate of child dependency increases to be adjusted when the increase is payable for the eldest eligible child for whom ChB is also payable. The weekly rate of the increase is reduced by the differential rates (less £3.65 from April 2003), between the rate of ChB payable for the oldest eligible child and that payable for a subsequent child.

Disregards in HB/CTB

- 33. The child care disregards in HB/CTB, in line with WTC weekly equivalents, remain at
 - £175.00 for one child
 - £300.00 for two or more children
- 34. The additional earnings disregard in HB/CTB that can be applied to those entitled to WTC remains at £17.10, to align with the WTC 30 hour limit. See *HB/CTB Guidance Manual BW2 W2 2.132 2.140*).

Recovery of overpayments from ongoing HB

- The standard maximum weekly rate of recovery from continuing HB is increasing from £10.20 to £10.65 from April 2012.
- The maximum weekly rate of recovery from continuing HB, when the overpayment has arisen as a result of fraud, (as defined in Reg 102(3) of HB Regulations 2006 and Reg 83(3) of HB (SPC) Regulations 2006) will increase from £13.60 to £17.75. See paragraphs 40 42 below.
- 37. In addition, an LA can increase deductions by half (50 per cent) of certain disregards, if applicable for
 - earnings
 - regular charitable income or voluntary payments
 - War Disablement Pension or War Widows Pension

- 38. The following benefits could have a disregard, but they are not included in HB Schedules 4 and 5 or HB (SPC) Schedules 4 and 5, and therefore any disregards relating to these benefits cannot be used to increase the recovery rate each week
 - Attendance Allowance (AA)
 - Child Benefit (ChB)
 - Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
 - Guardian's Allowance (GA)
 - Working Tax Credit (WTC)
- 39. LAs must not recover more than the prescribed amounts from ongoing HB. LAs should have regard to any special health or financial circumstances of the customer before deciding the level of deduction, or when to commence the deductions, to avoid causing undue hardship to the customer or their dependants. See HB/CTB Overpayments Guide, Recovery of Overpayments, paras 4.430 4.434.

Increasing the maximum deduction for overpayment caused by fraud

- 40. In October 2010, the Government published a strategy paper on '<u>Tackling Fraud and Error in the Benefit and Tax Credit Systems</u>'. Leading on from this, the Social Security (Payments on Account, Overpayments and Recovery) Regulations 1988 will be amended to increase the deduction limits for overpayments caused by fraud. HB Regulation 102(3) and HB SPC Regulation 83(3) will be similarly amended.
- 41. Legislation sets a maximum level of deduction from an income-related benefit to recover an overpayment. The maximum lower rate will remain as 3 x 5% of the scale rate for a single customer aged not less than 25 years. Where an overpayment is associated with an offence for which the claimant has been prosecuted, or they have admitted guilt under caution or accepted an Administrative Penalty, the increase in deductions will be from the current 4 x 5% to 5 x 5% of the same scale rate.
- 42. In addition, regulations will also align the rounding rules for the two maximum deduction rates for simplicity and so that the lower rate is always 3/5 of the higher rate.

Fuel deductions – deductions for ineligible fuel charges

43. The CPI for fuel and lighting in September was 18.3 per cent. The new rates for statutory fuel deductions are shown below (*HB/CTB Guidance Manual A4*, paragraphs 4.900).

Service charges for fuel	2011/2012	2012/2013
Heating	21.55	25.50

Hot water	2.50	2.95
Lighting	1.75	2.05
Cooking	2.50	2.95
Total all fuel	28.30	33.45

One room rate deduction

The formula for the one room rate deduction is set out in Housing Benefit Regulations at *Schedule 1*, part 2, paragraph 6(2)(a) to (d) and (3). Sub-paragraph (3) states the ineligible amount for service charges when the accommodation consists of only one room shall be one half of the aggregate of the amounts specified in sub-paragraph (2) (a), (b) and (c). (See *HB/CTB Guidance Manual A4*, paragraph 4.910).

	2011/2012	2012/2013
One room rate – heating and any hot water and/or lighting	12.90	15.25
Cooking	2.50	2.95
One room rate calculation:		
Heating (other than hot water)	21.55	25.50
Hot water	2.50	2.95
Lighting	1.75	2.05
Total	25.80 divided by 2 = 12.90	30.50 divided by 2 = 15.25

State Pension Credit

45. The amount of the maximum savings credit will be reduced to £18.54 for a single person and £23.73 for a couple. However, these figures cannot be used to calculate a likely savings credit entitlement from April 2012. Savings credit is calculated on an individual basis, using the income and capital of that person. In addition, HB (SPC) Reg 27/CTB (SPC) Reg 17 state that the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) calculation of income, capital and savings credit must be used.

46. S.I.2004/290 made provisions for the date on which Pension Credit cases should be uprated and the associated guidance, to apply each year to the annual uprating exercise. See HB/CTB Guidance Manual Uprated changes in social security benefits paras BP2 P2.790; CTB (SPC) Regs 31(10); and HB (SPC) Regs 41(10).

Bereavement and widows' benefits

47. As implemented last year, the basic State Pension equivalent in bereavement and widows benefits will be uprated by CPI.

Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit and Guardian's Allowance

- 48. From April 2011, the basic and 30 hour elements of the WTC have been frozen for three years, after which these elements will increase in line with CPI.
- 49. Last year's uprating circular <u>A26/2010</u> stated that the child element of CTC would increase by £50 above indexation in 2012/13. However, the Chancellor announced in his Autumn Statement on 29 November that this additional increase would not be implemented. The increase in the child element will thus be limited to £2,690 (from £2,555 last year).
- 50. The rate of ChB is frozen for three years from April 2011. Parents will continue to receive ChB for children in full time education up to 18 years old and in some cases 19 years.
- 51. All the current and new 2012/13 rates can be found on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/taxcredits.htm

National Insurance Contribution rates

- 52. The primary threshold for employers', employees' and self employed National Insurance Contributions (NICs) will be increased to £146 per week and the secondary threshold increased to £144 per week.
- 53. The upper earning and profits limits for Class 1 and Class 4 NICs respectively will remain at £817 a week. For the self-employed, the rate of Class 2 contributions will rise to £2.65 a week. Class 3 contributions will increase to £13.25.
- 54. The lower earnings limit and the special class 2 rate for volunteer development workers will rise to £107 a week and £5.35 a week respectively.
- 55. For a full set of the NIC rates for 2012/13, see HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/nic.htm

Council Tax Benefit rates for people who have not reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit	April 2011	April 2012
Personal Allowances		
	53.45	56.25
Single claimant aged not less than 18 but less than 25	55. 4 5	30.23
than 25		
Single claimant not less than 25	67.50	71.00
3 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1		
Single claimant of any age and entitled to main	67.50	71.00
phase ESA		
Lone parent	67.50	71.00
	10-0-	
Couple	105.95	111.45
Day and ant abildy an		
Dependent children Child from data of hirth to day proceeding first		
Child from date of birth to day preceding first Monday in September following 16 th birthday	62.33	64.99
Young person from first Monday in September	02.33	04.99
following 16 th birthday to day preceding 20 th	62.33	64.99
birthday	02.00	04.55
Polygamous marriages		
If the claimant is a member of a polygamous		
marriage and none of the members of the		
marriage have attained the age of 60		
For the claimant and the other party to the	105.95	111.45
marriage		
For each additional spouse who is a member of	38.45	40.45
the same household as the claimant		
Premiums		
Family Premium	17.40	17.40
Family Premium if one or more children aged	17. 4 0	17.40
under 1 year	27.90	withdrawn
Family Premium (lone parent rate)	21.30	vviululavvii
ranny r romain (ione parent rate)	22.20	22.20
Family Premium (lone parent rate) if one or more	0	
children aged under 1 year	32.70	withdrawn
,		
Disability Premium		
Single	28.85	30.35
Couple	41.10	43.25

Enhanced Disability Premium		
Single	14.05	14.80
Disabled child rate	21.63	22.89
Couple	20.25	21.30
Severe Disability Premium		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple (lower rate)	55.30	58.20
Couple (higher rate)	110.60	116.40
Disabled Child Premium	53.62	56.63
Carer Premium	31.00	32.60
Components ESA(IR) and ESA(C)		
Work-related activity component	26.75	28.15
Support component	32.35	34.05
Non-dependant Deductions		
In receipt of state Pension Credit or in receipt of IS, JSA(IB), or ESA(IR)	Nil	Nil
Aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
-gross income greater than £394.00	8.60	9.90
-gross income not less than £316.00 but less than £394.00	7.20	8.25
-gross income not less than £183.00 but less than £316.00	5.70	6.55
-gross income less than £183.00	2.85	3.30
Others aged 18 or over	2.85	3.30

Alternative Maximum Council Tax Benefit Rebate (% of Council Tax)	April 2011	April 2012
Second adult on IS, JSA(IB), state Pension Credit or ESA(IR)	25%	25%
Students	100%	100%
Second adult gross income		
- less than £180.00 per week	15%	15%
- not less than £180.00 but less than £235.00 per week	7.5%	7.5%
Disregards		
Subtenants disregard	20.00	20.00
Earnings disregards		
Childcare charges	175.00	175.00
Childcare charges (2 or more children)	300.00	300.00
Additional earnings disregard	17.10	17.10
Permitted Earnings disregard - higher	95.00	97.50
Permitted Earnings disregard - lower	20.00	20.00
Capital Limits		
Upper capital limit – State Pension Credit guarantee credit NOT in payment	16,000	16,000
Upper capital limit – State Pension Credit guarantee credit in payment	No limit	No limit
Lower capital limit – below qualifying age for state Pension Credit	6,000	6,000
Lower capital limit – above qualifying age for state Pension Credit	10,000	10,000
	<u> </u>	

Housing Benefit rates for people who have not reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit	April 2011	April 2012
Personal Allowances		
Single		
16 to 24	53.45	56.25
25 or over	67.50	71.00
Any age – entitled to main phase rate ESA	67.50	71.00
Lone parent		
Under 18	53.45	56.25
18 or over	67.50	71.00
Any age – entitled to main phase rate ESA	67.50	71.00
Couple		
Both under 18	80.75	84.95
One or both over 18	105.95	111.45
Any age – entitled to main phase rate ESA	105.95	111.45
Dalumana Maniana		
Polygamous Marriages		
If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and		
no members of the marriage have attained the age of 60	105.05	111 15
For the claimant and the other party to the marriage	105.95	111.45
For each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant	38.45	40.45
Household as the claimant		
Dependent children		
From birth to September following 16 th birthday	62.33	64.99
From September following 16 th birthday to day before 20 th	62.33	64.99
birthday		
Premiums		
Family Premium	17.40	17.40
Family Premium if one or more children aged under 1 year	27.90	withdrawn
Family Premium (lone parent rate)	22.20	22.20
Family Premium (lone parent rate) if one or more children	32.70	withdrawn
aged under 1 year		
Disability Premium		
Single	28.85	30.35
Couple	41.10	43.25
Enhanced Disability Premium		
Single rate	14.05	14.80
Disabled child rate	21.63	22.89
Couple rate	20.25	21.30
Severe Disability Premium		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple – one qualifies	55.30	58.20
Couple – both qualify	110.60	116.40

Disabled Child Premium	53.62	56.63
Carer Premium	31.00	32.60
Components ESA(IR) and ESA(C)		
Work related activity component	26.75	28.15
Support component	32.35	34.05
Deductions		
Non-dependant Deductions		
Aged 25 or over and on IS/JSA(IB), or aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work	9.40	11.45
In receipt of main phase ESA(IR)	9.40	11.45
In receipt of Pension Credit	Nil	Nil
Not in receipt of main phase ESA(IR) rate	Nil	Nil
Aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
- gross income less than £124.00	9.40	11.45
- gross income not less than £124.00 but less than £183.00	21.55	26.25
- gross income not less than £183.00 but less than £238.00	29.60	36.10
- gross income not less than £238.00 but less than £316.00	48.45	59.05
- gross income not less than £316.00 but less than £394.00	55.20	67.25
- gross income not less than £394.00	60.60	73.85
Service charges for fuel		
Heating	21.55	25.50
Hot water	2.50	2.95
Lighting	1.75	2.05
Cooking	2.50	2.95
All fuel	28.30	33.45
Fuel charges for one room		
Heating and hot water and/or lighting	12.90	15.25
Cooking	2.50	2.95
Amounts ineligible for meals		
Three or more meals a day		
Single claimant	24.05	25.30
Each person in family aged 16 or over	24.05	25.30
Each child under 16	12.15	12.80
Less than 3 meals a day		
Single claimant	16.00	16.85
Each person in family aged 16 or over	16.00	16.85
Each child under 16	8.05	8.45

Disregards		
Childcare charges	175.00	175.00
Childcare charges (2 or more children)	300.00	300.00
Additional earnings disregard	17.10	17.10
Subtenants disregard	20.00	20.00
Permitted Earnings disregard – higher	95.00	97.50
Permitted Earnings disregard – lower	20.00	20.00
Capital limits		
Upper capital limit – State Pension Credit guarantee	16,000	16,000
credit NOT in payment		
Upper capital limit – State Pension Credit guarantee	No limit	No limit
credit in payment		
Lower capital limit – below qualifying age for state	6,000	6,000
Pension Credit		
Lower capital limit – above qualifying age for state	10,000	10,000
Pension Credit		

Appendix B

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit rates for people who have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit	April 2011	April 2012
Personal Allowances	407.05	440.70
Single claimant aged under 65	137.35	142.70
Single claimant aged 65 or over	157.90	161.25
Lone parent aged under 65	137.35	142.70
Lone parent aged 65 or over	157.90	161.25
Couple		
One or both aged 60 or over, but both aged under 65	209.70	217.90
One member or both members aged 65 or over	236.80	241.65
Polygamous marriages		
If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and none of the members of the marriage have attained the age of 65		
For the claimant and the other party to the marriage	209.70	217.90
For each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant	72.35	75.20
If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and one or more of the members of the marriage are aged 65 or over		
For the claimant and the other party to the marriage	236.80	241.65
For each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant	78.90	80.40
Dependent child or young person	62.33	64.99
Dependent child or young person	02.33	04.99
Premiums		
Severe Disability Premium		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple – one qualifies	55.30	58.20
Couple – both qualify	110.60	116.40
Enhanced Disability Premium		
Disabled child	21.63	22.89
Carer Premium	31.00	32.60
Disabled Child Premium	53.62	56.63
Family Premium	17.40	17.40
Family Premium if one or more children aged under 1 vear	27.90	N/A

Appendix B

Non-dependant Deductions in HB		
In receipt of state Pension Credit	Nil	Nil
In receipt of main phase ESA(IR)	9.40	11.45
Not in receipt of main phase ESA(IR)	Nil	Nil
Aged 25 or over and on IS/JSA(IB) or aged 18	9.40	11.45
or over and not in remunerative work		
Aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
-gross income less than £124.00	9.40	11.45
-gross income not less than £124.00 but less than £183.00	21.55	26.25
- gross income not less than £183.00 but less than £238.00	29.60	36.10
- gross income not less than £238.00 but less than £316.00	48.45	59.05
- gross income not less than £316.00 but less than £394.00	55.20	67.25
- gross income more than £394.00	60.60	73.85
Non-dependant Deductions in CTB		
Age 18 and over and in remunerative work		
-others aged 18 or over	2.85	3.30
- gross income less than £183.00	2.85	3.30
- gross income not less than £183.00 but less than £316.00	5.70	6.55
- gross income not less than £316.00 but less than £394.00	7.20	8.25
- gross income greater than £394.00	8.60	9.90
In receipt of Pension Credit, IS, JSA(IB), or ESA(IR)	Nil	Nil
Disregards		
Permitted Earnings disregard - higher	95.00	97.50
Permitted Earnings disregard - lower	20.00	20.00
Upper capital limit – State Pension Credit guarantee credit NOT in payment	16,000	16,000
Upper capital limit – State Pension Credit guarantee credit in payment	No limit	No limit
Lower capital limit – above qualifying age for state Pension Credit	10,000	10,000

Income Support rates

	2011	2012
Personal allowances		
Single		
Under 25	53.45	56.25
25 or over	67.50	71.00
Lone parent		
Under 18 – usual rate	53.45	56.25
18 or over	67.50	71.00
Couple		
Both under 18	53.45	56.25
Both under 18, higher rate (for example, with responsibility for a child)	80.75	84.95
One under 18, one aged under 25	53.45	56.25
One under 18, one aged 25 or over	67.50	71.00
Both 18 or over	105.95	111.45
Dependent children		
Birth to September following 16 th birthday	62.33	64.99
Premiums		
Family Premium	17.40	17.40
Family (lone parent rate)	17.40	17.40
Pensioner Premium (couples only)	103.75	106.45
Disability Premium		
Single	28.85	30.35
Couple	41.10	43.25
Enhanced Disability Premium		
Single rate	14.05	14.80
Disabled child rate	21.63	22.89
Couple	20.25	21.30
Severe Disability Premium		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple – one qualifies	55.30	58.20
Couple – both qualify	110.60	116.40
Disabled Child Premium	53.62	56.63
Carer Premium	31.00	32.60
Capital limits		
Upper capital limit	16,000	16,000
Lower capital limit	6,000	6,000
Care home limit	10,000	10,000

Jobseeker's Allowance rates

	2011	2012
Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance		
Personal Rates		
Under 25	53.45	56.25
Aged 25 or over	67.50	71.00
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance		
Personal Allowances		
Single claimant aged under 25	53.45	56.25
Single claimant aged 25 or over	67.50	71.00
Lone parent		
Under 18	53.45	56.25
18 or over	67.50	71.00
Couple		
Both under 18	53.45	56.25
Both under 18 (higher rate – for example, with responsibility for a child)	80.75	84.95
One under 18, one 18 - 24	53.45	56.25
One under 18, one 25 or over	67.50	71.00
Both 18 or over	105.95	111.45
Dependent children		
From birth to September following 16 th birthday	62.33	64.99
From September following 16 th birthday to day before 20 th birthday	62.33	64.99
Premiums		
Family Premium	17.40	17.40
Family Premium (lone parent) rate	17.40	17.40
Pensioner Premium		
Single	69.85	71.70
Couple	103.75	106.45
Disability Premium		
Single	28.85	30.35
Couple	41.10	43.25
Enhanced Disability Premium		
Single rate	14.05	14.80
Disabled child rate	21.63	22.89
Couple	20.25	21.30

Jobseeker's Allowance rates

Severe Disability Premium		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple – one qualifies	55.30	58.20
Couple – both qualify	110.60	116.40
Disabled Child Premium	53.62	56.63
Carer Premium	31.00	32.60
Capital limits		
	_	
Upper capital limit	16,000	16,000
Lower capital limit	6,000	6,000

Employment and Support Allowance rates

	2011	2012
Personal allowances		
Single – Aged under 25 and in Assessment Phase	53.45	56.25
Single - Aged 25 or over	67.50	71.00
Any age and in Main Phase	67.50	71.00
Lone parent		
Aged under 18 and in Assessment Phase	53.45	56.25
Aged 18 or over	67.50	71.00
Any age and in Main Phase	67.50	71.00
Couple		
Both aged under 18 and in Assessment Phase	53.45	56.25
Both under 18, with responsibility for a child, and in	80.75	84.95
Assessment Phase		
Both aged under 18 and in Main Phase	67.50	71.00
Both aged under 18, with responsibility for a child,	105.95	111.45
and in Main Phase		
One aged 18 or over and the other, while aged	105.95	111.45
under 18, also satisfies certain conditions.	405.05	444.45
Both aged 18 or over	105.95	111.45
Claimant aged under 25 and in Assessment Phase	53.45	56.25
and partner aged under 18	07.50	74.00
Claimant aged 25 or over and in Assessment Phase	67.50	71.00
and partner aged under 18	67.50	71.00
Claimant in Main Phase and partner aged under 18	07.50	71.00
Premiums		
Pensioner Premium		
Single and in Assessment Phase	69.85	71.70
Single, entitled to work related activity component	43.10	43.55
Single, entitled to support component	37.50	37.65
Couple, and in Assessment Phase	103.75	106.45
Couple, entitled to work related activity component	77.00	78.30
Couple, entitled to support component	71.40	72.40
Severe Disability Premium		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple – one qualifies	55.30	58.20
Couple – both qualify	110.60	116.40
Carer Premium	31.00	32.60
Enhanced Disability Premium		
Single	14.05	14.80
Couple	20.25	21.30

Employment and Support Allowance rates

Components		
Work related activity component	26.75	28.15
Support component	32.35	34.05

	2011	2012
Attendance Allowance		
Higher rate	73.60	77.45
Lower rate	49.30	51.85
Carer's Allowance		
Carer's Allowance	55.55	58.45
Adult dependency increase for spouse or	32.70	34.40
person looking after children		
Child Dependency Increases		
Rate of child addition to State Pension,		
Widowed Mothers/Parents Allowance,		
Iong-term Incapacity Benefit, short-term		
Incapacity Benefit (higher rate or over state pension age), Carer's Allowance, Severe		
Disablement Allowance, Industrial Death		
Benefit (higher rate), Unemployability		
Supplement.		
Only, eldest or eldest child for child benefit	8.10	8.10
purposes, couple		
Other children (In certain circumstances, a	11.35	11.35
child dependency addition may not be		
payable in respect of this child)		
Disability Living Allowance		
Care component		
Highest	73.60	77.45
Middle	49.30	51.85
Lowest	19.55	20.55
Mobility component		
Higher	51.40	54.05
Lower	19.55	20.55
Incapacity Benefit		
Long term Incapacity Benefit	04.05	00.45
Single person	94.25	99.15
Spouse or adult dependant (when	54.75	57.60
appropriate)		
Short term Incapacity Ponofit (under		
Short term Incapacity Benefit (under pension age)		
Lower rate	71.10	74.80
Higher rate	84.15	88.55
Spouse or other adult dependant (where	42.65	44.85
appropriate)	72.00	77.00
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Short term Incapacity Benefit (over		
pension age)		
Lower rate	90.45	95.15
Higher rate	94.25	99.15
Spouse or other adult dependant (where	52.70	55.45
appropriate)		
Increase of long term Incapacity Benefit for		
age	40.00	11.70
Higher rate	13.80	11.70
Lower rate	5.60	5.90
Invalidity Allowance (transitional) for		
Incapacity Benefit recipients	12.00	11.70
Higher rate	13.80	11.70
Middle rate	7.10	5.90
Lower rate	5.60	5.90
Industrial Death Benefit		
Widow's Pension		
Higher rate	102.15	107.45
Lower rate	30.65	32.24
Widower's Pension	102.15	107.45
Industrial Injuries Benefit		
Disablement Benefit (100% assessment)	150.30	158.10
Unemployability supplement	92.90	97.75
Reduced earnings allowance (maximum)	60.12	63.24
Maternity Allowance		
Standard Rate	128.73	135.45
Threshold	30.00	30.00
Severe Disablement Allowance		
Basic rate	62.95	69.00
Spouse or other adult dependant (where	32.90	34.60
appropriate)		
Age-related addition		
Higher rate	13.80	11.70
Middle rate	7.10	5.90
Lower rate	5.60	5.90

State Pension		
Category A or B (Single Person)	102.15	107.45
Category B (lower) – spouse or civil	61.20	64.40
partner's insurance	01.20	00
Category C (higher) or Category D -	61.20	64.40
non-contributory	01.20	01.10
Category C (lower) – non-contributory	36.60	38.50
category o (learner) men contains attenty	00.00	33.33
Additional State Pension – rate may vary	3.1%	5.2%
ridding state i shelen i tate may rany	0.1.70	0.270
Increments to:		
Basic State Pension	3.1%	5.2%
Additional State Pension	3.1%	5.2%
Graduated Retirement Benefit	3.1%	5.2%
Inheritable lump sum	3.1%	5.2%
,		
Addition at age 80	25p	25p
Adult dependency increase for spouse or	58.80	61.85
person looking after children		
Increase in respect of long-term incapacity		
for age		
Higher rate	19.25	20.25
Lower rate	9.65	10.15
Invalidity Allowance (Transitional)		
Higher rate	19.25	20.25
Middle rate	12.40	13.00
Lower rate	6.20	6.50
State Pension Credit		
Standard guarantee credit		
single	137.35	142.70
couple	209.70	217.90
Additional amount for severe disability		
Single	55.30	58.20
Couple (one qualifies)	55.30	58.20
Couple (both qualify)	110.60	116.40
Additional amount for carers	31.00	32.60
Savings Credit		
Threshold - single	103.15	111.80
Threshold - couple	164.55	178.35
Maximum - single	20.52	18.54
Maximum - couple	27.09	23.73

Amount for claimant and first spouse in	209.70	217.90
polygamous marriage		
Additional amount for additional spouse	72.35	75.20
Statutory Adoption Pay		
Earnings threshold	102.00	107.00
Standard Rate	128.73	135.45
Statutory Maternity Pay		
Earnings threshold	102.00	107.00
Standard rate	128.73	135.45
Statutory Paternity Pay		
Earnings threshold	102.00	107.00
Standard rate	128.73	135.45
Additional Statutory Paternity Pay		
Earnings threshold	102.00	107.00
Standard rate	128.73	135.45
Statutory Sick Pay		
Earnings threshold	102.00	107.00
Standard rate	81.60	85.85

Bereavement Benefits rates

Bereavement Benefits	2011	2012
Bereavement Payment (lump sum)	2,000	2,000
Widowed Parent's Allowance	100.70	105.95
Bereavement Allowance		
Standard rate	100.70	105.95
Age related rate:		
Age 54	93.65	98.53
Age 53	86.60	91.12
Age 52	79.55	83.70
Age 51	72.50	76.28
Age 50	65.46	68.87
Age 49	58.41	61.45
Age 48	51.36	54.03
Age 47	44.31	46.62
Age 46	37.26	39.20
Age 45	30.21	31.79

Appendix E: Annexe 1

Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit and Guardian's Allowance rates

£ per year (unless stated)	2011-2012	Change	From April 2012
Working Tax Credit			
Basic Element	1,920	-	1,920
Couple and lone	1,950		1.950
parent element			
Thirty Hour	790	-	790
element			
Disabled worker	2,650	140	2,790
element			
Severe disability	1,130	60	1,190
element			
Aged 50 plus	1,365		withdrawn
Return to work			
payment (16-29			
hours)			
Aged 50 plus	2,030		withdrawn
Return to work	,		
payment (30 plus			
hours)			
/			
Childcare element of	f Working Tax Credi	t	
Maximum eligible	175	-	175
cost for one child			
(per week)			
Maximum eligible	300	-	300
cost for two or			
more children			
(per week)			
Percentage of	70%	-	70%
eligible costs			
covered			
	L		
Child Tax Credit			
Family element	545	-	545
Family element,	withdrawn	-	withdrawn
baby addition			
Child element	2,555	135	2,690
Disabled child	2,800	150	2,950
element	2,000	100	2,000
Severely disabled	1,130	60	1,190
child element	1,100	00	1,100
Cilia element			

Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit and Guardian's Allowance rates

Income thresholds and withdrawal rates					
First income	£6,420	-	£6,420		
threshold					
First withdrawal	41%	-	41%		
rate					
Second income	£40,000		withdrawn		
threshold					
Second withdrawal	41%		withdrawn		
rate					
First threshold for	£15,860	-	£15,860		
those entitled to					
Child Tax Credit					
only					
Income disregard	£10,000	-	£10,000		
Child Benefit					
Eldest/Only child	£20.30	-	£20.30		
Other children	£13.40	-	£13.40		
Guardian's Allowance					
Weekly allowance	£14.75	-	£15.55		

Main National Insurance Contribution rates

Rates per week unless otherwise stated	2011-2012	2012-2013
Lower Earnings Limit, Primary Class 1	£102	£107
Upper Earnings Limit, Primary Class 1	£817	£817
Upper Accruals Rate	£770	£770
Primary Threshold	£139	£146
Secondary Threshold	£136	£144
Employees' Class 1 rate between	12%	12%
primary threshold and upper earnings limit		
Employees' Class 1 rate above upper earnings limit	2%	2%
Employees' contracted-out rebate	1.6%	1.4%
Married women's reduced rate between primary threshold and upper earnings limit	5.85%	5.85%
Married women's rate above upper earnings limit	2%	2%
Employers' secondary Class 1 rate above secondary threshold	13.8%	13.8%
Employers' contracted-out rebate, salary-related schemes	3.7%	3.4%
Employers' contracted-out rebate, money-purchase schemes	1.4%	withdrawn
Class 2 rate – self employed	£2.50	£2.65
Class 2 small earnings exception (per year)	£5,315	£5,595
Special Class 2 rate for share fishermen	£3.15	£3.30
Special Class 2 rate for volunteer development workers	£5.10	£5.35
Class 3 rate	£12.60	£13.25
Lower Profits Limit, Class 4 rate – self employed	£7,225	£7,605
Upper Profits Limit, Class 4 rate	£42,475	£42,475
Class 4, rate between lower and upper profits limit	9%	9%
Class 4, rate above upper profits limit	2%	2%

War Pension Scheme benefits

The new rates of war pensions and allowances proposed from April 2012 are set out in the tables below. The annual uprating of war pensions and allowances for 2012/13 will take place from the week beginning 9 April. Rates for 2012/13 are increasing by the September CPI rate of 5.2 per cent.

	2011-2012	2012-2013
(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)		
War Pensions		
Disablement Pension (100% rates) officer (£ per annum) other ranks	8,323.00 159.50	8,756.00 167.80
Age allowances payable from age 65 40% - 50% over 50% but not over 70% over 70% but not over 90% over 90%	10.70 16.40 23.35 32.80	11.25 17.25 24.55 34.50
Disablement gratuity (one-off payment) specified minor injury (min.) specified minor injury (max.) 1 - 5% gratuity 6 -14% gratuity 15 -19% gratuity	1,016.00 7,584.00 2,535.00 5,638.00 9,860.00	1,069.00 7,978.00 2,667.00 5,931.00 10,373.00
Supplementary Allowances		
Unemployability allowance Personal adult dependency increase increase for first child increase for subsequent children	98.55 54.75 12.75 14.95	103.65 57.60 13.40 15.75
Invalidity allowance higher rate middle rate lower rate	19.55 12.60 6.30	20.55 13.30 6.65
Constant attendance allowance exceptional rate intermediate rate full day rate Part-day rate	120.40 90.30 60.20 30.10	126.60 94.95 63.30 31.65
Comforts allowance higher rate lower rate	25.90 12.95	27.20 13.60

Mobility supplement	57.40	60.40
Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (max)	60.12	63.24
Therapeutic earnings limit (annual rate)	4,940.00	5,070.00
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	60.20	63.30
Severe disablement occupational allowance	30.10	31.65
Clothing allowance (£ per annum)	205.00	216.00
Education allowance (£ per annum) (max)	120.00	120.00
Widow(er)s Benefits		
Widow(er)s' - other ranks (basic with children)	120.95	127.25
Widow(er) - Officer (basic with children) (£ per annum)	6,432.00	6,766.00
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (other ranks)	28.97	30.48
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (Officer highest rate both wars) (£ per annum)	2,234.00	2,350.00
Supplementary 1973 Widows/Widowers Pension	80.91	85.12
Age allowance (a) age 65 to 69 (b) age 70 to 79 (c) age 80 and over	13.80 26.50 39.30	14.50 27.90 41.35
Children's allowance Increase for first child Increase for subsequent children	18.95 21.25	19.95 22.35
Orphan's pension Increase for first child Increase for subsequent children	21.65 23.75	22.80 25.00
Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max)	118.60	124.90
Rent allowance (maximum)	45.60	47.95
Adult orphan's pension (maximum)	92.90	97.75