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Roundup of recent DWP announcements

Autumn Statement



This week the Chancellor delivered his Autumn Statement including a targeted package of support for the most vulnerable.

The full Autumn Statement is available to read on [GOV.UK](#) along with supporting documents including a Cost of Living [factsheet](#).

The package included:

Benefits uprating

The Government is protecting the most vulnerable in society by increasing benefits in line with inflation by 10.1%. Working age families will see their benefit payments rise from April 2023. The Government is also providing support this winter for people who need help now, including money off energy bills and Cost of Living Payments with the latest – £300 for pensioners – landing in bank accounts from next week.

Pensions uprating

Pensioners in Great Britain will benefit from a 10.1% increase to their State Pension in April 2023 under the triple lock. This is worth over £870 next year on average. A full basic State Pension will increase from £141.85 to £156.20 per week, and the new State Pension will increase from £185.15 to £203.85. The

Government will also protect 1.4 million of the poorest pensioner households from rising prices by increasing Pension Credit by 10.1% in April 2023.

New Cost of Living Payments

UK households on means-tested benefits will receive an additional Cost of Living Payment of £900 in 2023-24. These will be made in more than one instalment.

People across the UK on non-means-tested disability benefits will receive a further £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment in 2023-24, to help with the additional costs they face. This is in addition to the Cost of Living Payments for households on means-tested benefits and pensioner households, if eligible.

Pensioner households across the UK will receive an additional £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment in 2023-24 to help with bills. This is in addition to means-tested benefits and disability payments, if eligible – recognising that many pensioners are disproportionately impacted by higher energy costs and unable to increase their income through work.

DWP will provide further detail on timing of these payments and eligibility dates in due course. The payments will be tax free and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards.

Benefit cap rise

In April 2023, the Government will also increase the benefit cap in line with inflation by 10.1%. The benefit cap will rise from £23,000 to £25,323 for families in Greater London and from £20,000 to £22,020 for families nationally. Lower caps for single households without children will rise from £15,410 to £16,967 in Greater London and from £13,400 to £14,753 nationally.

Household Support Fund extension

To ensure that the most vulnerable households are protected, there will be a further one-year extension of the Household Support Fund from April 2023 to provide £842 million of support for the most vulnerable in society. The Devolved Administrations will receive £158 million through the Barnett formula, bringing total spend for this measure to £1 billion. Those in need can access the fund by contacting their local Council. The money can be used to cover the cost of essentials like food, energy and water bills.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – delay in managed move to Universal Credit (UC)

The Government has also had to make challenging decisions to deliver on fiscal sustainability, while protecting support for those who need it most. As part of this, the Chancellor announced a delay in the moving of ESA claimants not in receipt of Child Tax Credit into UC until April 2028, this provides a welfare saving of £1 billion by 2027-28, as overall UC is more generous than the benefits it replaces. Completing the move to UC over a longer time frame moves these increased costs to a later date.

Over 7 million families paid £324

Cost of Living Payments of £324 have been made to 7.3 million families in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the first week of the rollout, representing over 99% of DWP-eligible claimants.

Those eligible who have not yet received their Cost of Living Payment should not be concerned. Payments to those on means-tested benefits are continuing to be made automatically by the DWP up until 23 November and HMRC will begin paying the instalment to Tax Credit recipients on the same date, so no action is required.

If eligible claimants have still not received the Cost of Living Payment after this period, they will be able to report it on GOV.UK and a dedicated team of handlers will make the payment manually.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

A [new online tool](#) is available to make it easier for the public to check if they are eligible for the [Warm Home Discount](#), which provides eligible low-income and vulnerable households with a £150 discount off their energy bills.

The online tool will guide customers through the eligibility criteria in England and Wales, asking questions about electricity supply, the benefits they receive and characteristics of their property. After answering the questions, customers will be told whether their property meets the high energy cost criteria.

All customers will receive a letter between November and mid-January confirming their eligibility and the payment will be made automatically through energy suppliers by March 2023.

The Government is also writing to customers who may be eligible, advising them to use the tool to check eligibility, as well as using the helpline for particularly complex cases.

Social Tariffs - cut-price broadband and phone services for those on low incomes.

We know people are worried about the cost of their broadband and phone

services, so the Government has worked with a range of Internet Service Providers (IPs) and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to deliver low-cost packages for those on low incomes, called Social Tariffs.

Social Tariffs are available for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits, with some providers offering deals from as low as £15 a month. This could represent a saving of around £180 per year, which is over 50% less than the average cost of broadband.

We ask for your support in driving awareness of these vital products as we continue to help people with the cost of living. Social media assets, leaflets and posters are available to [download](#) and share on your social media channels and with your own audiences.

National Older Workers Week – webinars for employers

National Older Workers Week is taking place between 21-25 November. As the population ages, employers are being asked to consider the policies and procedures that both attract and retain older workers and ensure their organisations are age diverse.

Workingwise are running a series of events for employers where they will share insights and the latest best practice. Details of the events can be found on the [workingwise website](#) and include:

- Employing older workers - challenges and insights, 21 November 1-2pm
- Creating an age inclusive workforce, 23 November 1-2:30pm
- Employers - the action plan, 24 November 1-2pm

For further details about how employers can get in touch with Jobcentre Plus for help with their recruitment needs, please see recruitment advice and support on [GOV.UK](#), where Employer Services teams can connect employers to a local Employer Adviser.

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