



Upcoming Benefit Changes

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Changes from 1st November 2010

Pensioners

- ‘Extra’ Take on for GC claimants abolished

The regulations have been amended to prevent this additional 3 months HB/CTB from being awarded for any HB/CTB claims that are treated as being made on or after 1 November 2010.



- **Written statement of reasons**
 - Claimants have been able to request a statement of reasons at any time and then appeal the decision within 14 days.
 - With effect from the 1st November 2010 the customer only has one month from the date of decision to request a statement of reasons.



April 2011 – General Changes

- **Upratings by Customer Price Index (CPI)** rather than Retail Price Index (RPI). Upratings by 3.1% in April 2011.
- **Non-dependant deductions**
 - Will gradually rise to levels they should be at, had an increase happened annually.



LHA Changes – April 2011

- **£15 top up ends**
 - The change applies to all new customers after 01/04/11 and to all existing customers from their anniversary date unless they have a change of circumstances which requires a change in maximum rent.
- **LHA levels will be restricted to the 4 bedroom rate**



LHA Changes – April 2011

- **A new upper limit will be introduced for each property size**, with upper limits set at:
 - £250 a week for a 1 bedroom property
 - £290 a week for a 2 bedroom property
 - £340 a week for a 3 bedroom property
 - £400 a week for a 4 bedroom property or larger



LHA Changes – April 2011

- LHA figures will be set at 30th Percentile in each BRMA rather than median

November 2010	Current VOG	30 th Percentile	Difference
1 Bedroom Shared	£62.31	£55.39	£6.92
1 Bed self contained	£103.85	£95.77	£8.08
2 Bedroom	£124.62	£115.38	£8.62
3 Bedroom	£138.46	£126.92	£11.54
4 Bedroom	£196.15	£173.08	£23.07
5 Bedroom	£323.08	N/A	£150.00



30th Percentile will be included from April 2011

- For all new claims
- For original claims 9 months after the anniversary date



LHA Changes – April 2011

- **Additional room for non-resident carer**
 - Applies to disabled person, or someone with a long term health condition, with a proven need for overnight care that is provided by a non-resident carer

All changes will take effect for new claims immediately after start date and for existing claims they will take effect from anniversary date unless there is a change of circumstance earlier



April 2013 Changes

- **Social sector restrictions**
 - HB for working age social rented sector customers will be restricted for those who are occupying a larger property than their household size and structure would warrant
- **JSA restrictions**
 - HB customers who are claiming JSA will only receive full HB award for 12 months. After that their HB award will reduce by 10%



- **No one will receive more than £26,000 pa (£500 pw)**
- **Single Room Rate will rise from under 25's to under 35's - April 2012**
- **DHP increases**
 - £10 million extra in 2011-12 and £40 million more from 2012-13 and subsequent years



Universal Credit

- A single income related payment incorporating JSA/ESA/IS/TC/HB
- Simplified system, comprising of a basic living allowance with additional components such as housing costs.
- Pre 1983 supplementary benefit
- Tapers and disregards would be structured to ensure that customers were always better off in work than in receipt of benefits.



Universal Credits

- Administered by DWP
- Transfer all new claims from October 2013
- Transfer all existing claims by 2017
- Pension Claims
- CTB