

## COUNCIL

22 JANUARY 2015

### LOCALISING SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance

Report from: Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer

Author: Jon Poulson, Revenues and Benefits Manager

#### Summary

This report seeks Members' approval of the re-adoption of the existing local council tax reduction scheme for 2015/16.

**Please note that Appendix 4 is set out in Supplementary Agenda No.1.**

#### 1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 It is the Cabinet's responsibility to propose a budget to be agreed by Council. The scope of the localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) will have an impact on both the taxbase calculation and the budget requirement that underpin the budget proposal. The consequences of dealing with these issues will directly impact on the level of council tax. Approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme is a matter for Full Council.

#### 2. Background

2.1 On 23 January 2013 Council adopted a local CTRS (decision number 774/2013).

2.3 Any entitlement to a reduction is based on a means test, by taking into consideration a person's income and comparing this with any personal allowances, premiums and disregards to which they may be entitled.

2.4 For each financial year, the Council must consider whether to revise its scheme or to replace it with a replacement scheme. It must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement scheme, no later than 31 January for the subsequent financial year.

2.5 Revisions to the CTRS or a replacement CTRS must be the subject of consultation.

2.6 In order to maintain the balance between the council tax reduction scheme and the allowances to which claimants are entitled Council amended the

original scheme on 24 January 2014, following public consultation, so that it is updated on an annual basis in line with national changes (decision number 748/2014).

- 2.7 The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 (SI3312/2014) has been incorporated into the scheme and includes matters which must be contained within the local authority scheme. The majority of the amendments are to ensure consistency with changes to social security legislation. A copy of the regulations is at Appendix 1.
- 2.8 The Department for Work and Pensions Housing Benefit Adjudication circular A18/2014, which is in accordance with The Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act 2013 (Commencement Order 2013) No. 2317 (C.95), states a 1% increase to personal allowances for 2015/16. Officers expect the circular to be confirmed around the end of January by The Welfare Benefits Up-rating Order. A copy of the circular is at Appendix 2.

### **3. The Scheme**

- 3.1 The current Medway scheme is available from the following link:  
<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=22332>
- 3.2 The scheme consists of two parts; the first makes provision for non-pensioners and is at members' discretion, and the other makes provision for pensioners that is made on a national basis and in line with previous awards of council tax benefit
- 3.3 Key aspects of the CTRS are:
  - Any entitlement to a reduction is based on a means test, by taking into consideration a customer's income and comparing this with any personal allowances, premiums and disregards to which they may be entitled
  - Only 75% of council tax liability is used to assess Council Tax Support
  - A minimum deduction is made in respect of non-dependants to include any such person in the household, aged 18 years or more
  - Those in receipt of a war widow or war disablement pension enjoy the same protection as pensioners.

### **4. Advice and Analysis**

- 4.1 When considering making changes to this scheme it was necessary in the first instance to review how successful the existing policy had been since it came into effect on 1 April 2013 and as such the following factors have been considered:

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Estimate prior to implementation</b>	<b>Actuals as at 31/03/14</b>	<b>Actuals as at 31/10/14</b>
Caseload	23,000	21,966	21,211
Cost of scheme	£16,381k	£15,635k	£14,964k
Number of appeals received	N/A	43 (2 listed for tribunal and LA decision upheld)	50 (0 listed for tribunal)
Discretionary council tax relief awards	£70k	£10k	£4k
Council tax collection rate 2013/14	97.56%	94.9%	96.8%
Council tax collection rate 2014/15	97.56%	N/A	63.6% (compared to 64% for 2013/14 as at 31/10/13)
Number of summonses issued for non-payment	9,809 (actual as at 31/03/13)	13,485	10,662 (compared to 10,007 as at 31/10/13)

- 4.2 The above shows that whilst there has been a rise in recovery action, the collection rate remains on course and the cost of the scheme remains within expected parameters. The most recent collection rates quoted are as at 31 October 2014 but will obviously improve as arrears are recovered and hence the expectation that the overall collection rate underpinning the taxbase of 97.56% will be met and possibly exceeded.
- 4.3 Since 1 April 2013 when the initial CTRS started, the caseload has fallen consistently from 22,990 to 22,211.
- 4.4 The number of appeal cases is a very minor proportion of the overall caseload.
- 4.5 In January 2013, a Diversity Impact Assessment was undertaken on the proposals. This assessment identified a number of potential adverse impacts together with some mitigating factors that were incorporated into the scheme. Given that the scheme has and will remain unchanged (with the exception of annual uprating) and as such will not result in a change to the impact on individuals, it is not proposed to carry out a further assessment, although officers will continue to monitor the impact of the scheme on individuals.

## **5. Cabinet – 16 December 2014**

- 5.1 The Cabinet considered this matter on 16 December 2014 where it recommended the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (which will therefore be subject to annual uprating) to Council for adoption on 22 January 2015 (decision number 205/2014).

## **6. Risk management**

6.1 No additional risks identified since the adoption of the scheme last year.

## **7. Financial and legal implications**

7.1 The Council is under a legal duty under Schedule 1A to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to consider each year whether to revise its council tax reduction scheme or to replace it with another scheme. Schedule 1A also provides that any revision to the scheme, or any replacement scheme, must be made no later than 31 January in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect.

7.2 In accordance with decision 748/2014 the items identified at Appendix 1 have been amended within the scheme. In addition officers believe the uprated items identified at Appendix 2 will be confirmed by the issue of the Welfare Benefits Up-rating Order by the end of January.

7.3 A summary of the above changes is at Appendix 3, whilst the scheme inclusive of the above changes is at Appendix 4. Appendix 4 is set out in Supplementary Agenda No.1.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 That Council adopts the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

### **Lead officer contact**

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01634 333700

**Background Papers:** None

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 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS
 

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**2014 No. 3312****COUNCIL TAX, ENGLAND**
**The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements)  
 (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>16th December 2014</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>18th December 2014</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>12th January 2015</i>

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 113(1) and (2) of, and paragraph 2 of Schedule 1A to, the Local Government Finance Act 1992(a):

**Citation, commencement and application**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 and come into force on 12th January 2015.

(2) These Regulations apply in relation to council tax reduction schemes(b) made by billing authorities for financial years beginning on or after 1st April 2015.

**Amendment of the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012**

2.—(1) The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012(c) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 2 (interpretation)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

- (i) for the definition of “contributory employment and support allowance” substitute—
 

““contributory employment and support allowance” means an allowance under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007(d) as amended by the provisions of Schedule 3, and Part 1 of Schedule 14, to the Welfare Reform Act 2012(e) that remove references to an income-related allowance and a contributory allowance under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 as that Part has effect apart from those provisions;”;
- (ii) omit the definition of “service user group”;

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(a) 1992 c.14. Section 113(1) was amended by paragraphs 2 and 9(a) of Schedule 1 to the Local Government Act 1999 (c.27); paragraphs 40 and 52 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2003 (c.26) and section 80 of the Localism Act 2011 (c.20); Schedule 1A was inserted by Schedule 4 to the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (c.17).

(b) See section 13A(9) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for the definition of “council tax reduction scheme”.

(c) S.I. 2012/2885, amended by S.I. 2012/3085, 2013/3181, 2014/107, 2014/448, 2014/513.

(d) 2007 c. 5.

(e) 2012 c. 5.

- (b) after paragraph (7) insert—
- “(8) References in these Regulations to an applicant participating as a service user are to—
- (a) a person who is being consulted by or on behalf of—
    - (i) a body which has a statutory duty to provide services in the field of health, social care or social housing; or
    - (ii) a body which conducts research or undertakes monitoring for the purpose of planning or improving such services, in their capacity as a user, potential user, carer of a user or person otherwise affected by the provision of those services; or
  - (b) the carer of a person consulted as described in sub-paragraph (a) where the carer is not being consulted as described in that sub-paragraph.”.
- (3) In regulation 6 (meaning of “family”)—
- (a) omit the “or” following paragraph (3)(a);
  - (b) after paragraph (3)(b) insert—
    - “; or
    - (c) entitled to an award of universal credit.”.
- (4) In regulation 12(5) (persons treated as not being in Great Britain)—
- (a) in sub-paragraph (h) omit “, an income-based jobseeker’s allowance”;
  - (b) omit the “or” following sub-paragraph (h);
  - (c) after sub-paragraph (h) add—
    - “(ha) in receipt of an income-based jobseeker’s allowance and has a right to reside other than a right to reside falling within paragraph (4); or”.
- (5) In Schedule 1 (pensioners: matters that must be included in an authority’s scheme)—
- (a) in paragraph 8 (non-dependant deductions)—
    - (i) in sub-paragraph (1)(a) for “£11.25” substitute “£11.36”;
    - (ii) in sub-paragraph (1)(b) for “£3.70” substitute “£3.74”;
    - (iii) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) for “£188.00” substitute “£189.00”;
    - (iv) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) for “£188.00”, “£326.00” and “£7.45” substitute “£189.00”, “£328.00” and “£7.52” respectively;
    - (v) in sub-paragraph (2)(c) for “£326.00”, “£406.00” and “£9.40” substitute “£328.00”, “£408.00” and “£9.49” respectively;
    - (vi) in sub-paragraph (8)—
      - (aa) omit the “or” following paragraph (a);
      - (bb) after paragraph (b) add—
        - “; or
        - (c) who is entitled to an award of universal credit where the award is calculated on the basis that the person does not have any earned income.”;
    - (vii) after sub-paragraph (11) insert—
      - “(11A) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (8), “earned income” has the meaning given in regulation 52 of the Universal Credit Regulations 2013(a).”;
  - (b) in the following provisions for “applicant’s participation in a service user group” substitute “applicant participating as a service user”—
    - (i) paragraph 18(2)(f) (earnings of employed earners);

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(a) S.I. 2013/376 to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

- (ii) paragraph 22(12) (notional income);
- (iii) paragraph 23(3) (income paid to third parties);
- (c) in paragraph 25 (treatment of child care charges)—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (10)(c) and (e) after “Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008” insert “or the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2013(a)”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (10)(g) for “or allowance to which sub-paragraph (vii) or (viii)” substitute “or allowance or payment to which sub-paragraph (v), (vii) or (viii)”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (13)(b) for “would be payable but for” substitute “has ceased to be payable by virtue of”;
- (d) in the following provisions for “social security contributions” substitute “national insurance contributions”—
  - (i) paragraph 28(c) (disregard of changes in tax, contributions etc);
  - (ii) in paragraph 29 (calculation of net profit of self-employed earners)—
    - (aa) sub-paragraph (1)(b)(i);
    - (bb) sub-paragraph (2)(b)(ii);
    - (cc) sub-paragraph (8)(a)(ii);
  - (iii) paragraph 30(3) (calculation of tax and contributions of self-employed earners).
- (6) In Schedule 2 (applicable amounts)—
  - (a) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1—
    - (i) in sub-paragraph (1)(a) for “£148.35” substitute “£151.20”;
    - (ii) in sub-paragraph (1)(b) for “£165.15” substitute “£166.05”;
    - (iii) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) for “£226.50” substitute “£230.85”;
    - (iv) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) for “£247.20” substitute “£248.28”;
    - (v) in sub-paragraph (3)(a) for “£226.50” substitute “£230.85”;
    - (vi) in sub-paragraph (3)(b) for “£78.15” substitute “£79.65”;
    - (vii) in sub-paragraph (4)(a) for “£247.20” substitute “£248.28”;
    - (viii) in sub-paragraph (4)(b) for “£82.05” substitute “£82.26”;
  - (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 2 for “£66.33” in each place where it occurs substitute “£66.90”;
  - (c) in the second column of the Table in Part 4—
    - (i) in paragraph (1)(a) and (b)(i) for “£61.10” substitute “£61.85”;
    - (ii) in paragraph (1)(b)(ii) for “£122.20” substitute “£123.70”;
    - (iii) in paragraph (2) for “£24.08” substitute “£24.43”;
    - (iv) in paragraph (3) for “£59.50” substitute “£60.06”;
    - (v) in paragraph (4) for “£34.20” substitute “£34.60”.
- (7) In column (1) of the Table in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 (amount of alternative maximum council tax reduction)—
  - (a) in paragraph (b)(i) for “£185.00” substitute “£187.00”;
  - (b) in paragraph (b)(ii) for “£185.00” and “£241.00” substitute “£187.00” and “£243.00” respectively.
- (8) In Schedule 4 (sums disregarded from applicant’s earnings)—

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(a) S.I. 2013/379, amended by S.I. 2013/591, 2013/1508, 2014/107, 2014/147, 2014/516, 2014/597, 2014/884, 2014/1097, 2014/2309.

- (a) in paragraph 5(1)(d)(ii) after “Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008” insert “or regulation 7 of the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2013”;
- (b) in paragraph 6(6)(a) after “Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008” insert “or regulation 39(1)(a), (b) or (c) of the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2013”.

(9) In paragraph 19(2)(b) of Schedule 5 (amounts to be disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings) for “£57.35” substitute “£57.90”.

(10) In Schedule 6 (capital disregards)—

- (a) in paragraph 21(2)—
  - (i) omit the “or” following paragraph (o);
  - (ii) after paragraph (p) insert—
    - “; or
    - (q) universal credit.”;
- (b) in paragraph 22(2)(b) after “Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations” insert “1996(a)”;
- (c) in paragraph 22(2)(e) after “Employment and Support Allowance Regulations” insert “2008(b)”.

### **Transitional provision**

**3.**—(1) The amendment in regulation 2(4) does not apply to a person who, on 31st March 2015—

- (a) is liable to pay council tax at a reduced rate by virtue of a council tax reduction under an authority’s scheme established under section 13A(2) of the Act; and
- (b) is entitled to an income-based jobseeker’s allowance,

until the first of the events in paragraph (2) occurs.

(2) The events are—

- (a) the person makes a new application for a reduction under an authority’s scheme established under section 13A(2) of the Act; or
- (b) the person ceases to be entitled to an income-based jobseeker’s allowance.

(3) In this regulation “the Act” means the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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(a) S.I. 1996/207; relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2002/2380.  
(b) S.I. 2008/794 to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.



Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

*Kris Hopkins*

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department for Communities and Local Government

16th December 2014

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the 1992 Act”) requires each billing authority in England to make a scheme specifying the reductions which are to apply to amounts of council tax payable by persons, or classes of person, whom the authority considers are in financial need (“a council tax reduction scheme”). The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the 2012 Regulations”) prescribe matters which must be included in such a scheme in addition to matters set out in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1A to the 1992 Act. These Regulations amend the 2012 Regulations. The majority of the amendments are to ensure consistency with changes to social security legislation.

The revised definition in the amendment in regulation 2(2)(a)(i) is in relation to Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. As a result of that Act, income-related employment and support allowance will be abolished and employment and support allowance will no longer consist of separate contributory and income-related allowances, but only of a contributory allowance to be known simply as “employment and support allowance”. The amended definition in these Regulations includes both the old-style and the new-style form of employment and support allowance.

The amendments in regulation 2(2)(a)(ii), (2)(b) and (5)(b) replace the existing definition of, and references to, a “service user group” with the revised definition of, and references to, an “applicant participating as a service user”.

The amendments in regulation 2(3), (5)(a)(vi) and (vii) and (10)(a) insert references to universal credit where there are already references to other income-related benefits.

The amendments in regulation 2(4) restrict the category of person eligible to receive a reduction under a council tax reduction scheme. Under regulation 12 of the 2012 Regulations, persons not in Great Britain are prescribed as a category of person who must not be included in an authority’s scheme. These Regulations prescribe that a person who is in receipt of an income-based jobseeker’s allowance and whose only right to reside falls within the categories specified in regulation 12(4) of the 2012 Regulations, is a person to be treated as not being in Great Britain.

The amendments in regulation 2(5)(a)(i) to (v), (6), (7) and (9) increase certain of the figures which are used in calculating whether a person is entitled to a reduction and the amount of that reduction. The updated figures relate to non-dependant deductions (adjustments made to the maximum amount of reduction a person can receive to take account of adults living in the dwelling who are not dependants of the applicant); the applicable amount in relation to an applicant for a reduction (the amount against which an applicant’s income is compared in order to determine the amount of reduction to which he or she is entitled); the income bands in relation to which the amount of a person’s alternative maximum council tax reduction is calculated and a disregard that applies when calculating a person’s income.

The amendments in regulation 2(5)(c)(i) and (8) update the 2012 Regulations to include references to the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/379). The amendment in regulation 2(5)(c)(iii) is a minor clarification amendment.

The amendment in regulation 2(5)(c)(ii) adds Personal Independence Payment to the list of payments for which a member of a couple is treated as incapacitated if they were in receipt of the payment but have ceased to be by virtue of hospitalisation.

The amendments in regulation 2(5)(d) update references to “social security contributions” to “national insurance contributions”.

The amendments in regulation 2(10)(b) and (c) make minor referencing amendments to the 2012 Regulations.

Regulation 3 contains a transitional provision. The amendment in regulation 2(4) will not apply to a person who, on 31st March 2015, is entitled to income-based jobseeker’s allowance and liable to pay council tax at a reduced rate under an authority’s scheme until that person is no longer entitled to income-based jobseeker’s allowance or makes a new claim for a council tax reduction, whichever is earlier.

An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

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£6.00

UK2014121621 12/2014 19585

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/3312>

ISBN 978-0-11-112589-2



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## Housing Benefit Circular

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

# HB A18/2014

### ADJUDICATION AND OPERATIONS CIRCULAR

<b>WHO SHOULD READ</b>	All Housing Benefit staff
<b>ACTION</b>	For information
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Housing Benefit: Uprating 2015 - 16

### Guidance Manual

The information in this circular affects the content of the

- HB Guidance Manual. Please annotate this circular number against paragraph A4 4.750, 4.910, A5 Annex A, BW3 Annex A and BP3 Annex A.
- HB/CTB Overpayments Guide. Please annotate this circular number against paragraphs 4.430 – 4.434

### Queries

- **extra copies of this circular/copies of previous circulars** can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-benefit-for-local-authorities-circulars-2014>
- about the
  - **technical content of this circular**, contact [housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
  - **distribution of this circular**, contact [housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

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## Housing Benefit: Uprating 2015 - 16

### Introduction

1. In his written statement to Parliament on 4 December 2014, the Minister of State for Pensions announced his proposals for the social security benefit rates that will apply from April 2015.
2. This circular advises you of the rates so you can take the appropriate action.

Note: At the time of writing, the Orders bringing the changes into effect are still subject to the appropriate Parliamentary process.

3. Any queries about the information contained in this circular should be emailed to [housing.benefitsenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:housing.benefitsenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

### Timing

4. In line with previous practice, the main Housing Benefit (HB) uprating will be introduced in advance of the setting of the main social security benefit rates. To coincide with the week in which many rents change, the 2015 uprating will take effect on:
  - Monday 6 April 2015 for cases to which HB 2006 regulation 79(3)(a)(ii) (for working age customers) and HB (SPC) 2006 regulation 59(3)(a)(ii) (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)
  - Wednesday 1 April 2015 for cases to which HB 2006 regulation 79(3)(a)(i) (for working age customers) and HB (SPC) 2006 regulation 59(3)(a)(i) (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.

### Uprating of income-related social security benefits

5. The main points are:
  - State Retirement Pension is being uprated by 2.5% in line with the government's "triple lock" commitment
  - the Standard Minimum Guarantee in Pension Credit will be increased to give an equivalent to the cash increase in basic State Pension. The Savings Credit maximum is being reduced
  - premiums paid to pensioner recipients of working-age benefits will continue to be uprated to match Pension Credit rates



- premiums paid to disabled people receiving working-age benefits, and to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants in the Support Group, will be uprated by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) at 1.20%
  - working-age benefits (main rates) including main elements of Universal Credit and HB personal allowances will be uprated by 1%.
6. The uprating for the other income-related benefits, Income Support (IS), income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)), income-related ESA (ESA (IR)) and the majority of other social security benefits is Monday 6 April 2015. This is the first Monday in the fiscal year, i.e. the first Monday on or after 6 April 2015.

### **Uprating of non income-related social security benefits**

7. The higher and middle rate invalidity allowances and age additions payable with Incapacity Benefit (IB) will be increased from April 2015.

### **Uprating of social security benefits - general**

8. The following Regulations allow you to take account of these rates on 1 April or 6 April as appropriate:
- HB 2006 Regs 42(8) and 79(3)
  - HB (SPC) 2006 Regs 41(9), 41(10) and 59(3).

Associated guidance is set out in HB/CTB Guidance Manual at BP2 P2.790.

9. There is no provision in regulations to uprate a claimant's social security benefit other than by using the correct amount. Most claimants will know their rates of benefit well before April each year.
10. We are aware that many local authorities' (LAs') Information Technology systems apply a percentage increase to uprate income from other social security benefits in the assessment of HB. 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.
11. However, given the fact that in recent years some of the components paid in addition to the main rates 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.
12. LAs should also take into account that specific Automated Transfer to LA Systems (ATLAS) uprating notifications are issued for all benefits on the Customer Information System (CIS), except:
- Attendance Allowance
  - Disability Living Allowance
  - Personal Independence Payment

- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Carer's Allowance
- State Retirement Pension
- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disability Allowance
- Bereavement Benefits
- Widow's Benefit

13. 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.

### **Tax Credits**

14. Any changes to Working Tax Credit (WTC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) (see Appendix E: Annex 1) will be effective from 6 April 2015 in line with the start of the new tax year.
15. Tax credit 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 31 July 2015 when Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) make any adjustments and issue a final decision. LAs should take into account as income the actual instalment paid to the claimant shown on the current award notice. You should look at the tax credit received and if there is an increase or decrease in an instalment this is what must be taken into account.
16. ATLAS will notify tax credit information to LAs. All the current and new 2015 -16 tax credit rates can be found on the HMRC website at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rates-and-allowances-tax-credits-child-benefit-and-guardians-allowance>

### **War Pensions**

17. The new rates for War Pensions are not yet available and details of the new rates will be issued via a separate circular once the Veteran's Agency release the figures.

### **Specific points of interest**

#### **Non-dependant deductions in HB**

18. The deduction and income bands for 2015 -16 are at Appendices A and B.

#### **Rates remaining unchanged**

19. Certain rates are not changing. They are:
- Family premium at £17.45

- Family premium (lone parent) at £22.20
- Child dependency increase at £11.35 (for second and subsequent children)

However, the child dependency increase for the eldest or only child is reduced to £8.00 from April 2015.

### **Disregards in HB which remain unchanged**

20. The childcare disregards in HB in line with WTC weekly equivalents, remain at:

- £175.00 for one child
- £300.00 for two or more children

21. The additional earnings disregard in HB that can be applied to those entitled to WTC remains at £17.10. See [HB Guidance manual BW2](#) paragraphs BW2.132 – 2.140.

### **Deductions for ineligible fuel charges**

22. The CPI for fuel and lighting in September 2014 was 1.20%. New rates for statutory fuel deductions are shown in Appendix A.

### **One room rate deduction**

23. The formula for the one room rate deduction is set out in HB regulations 2006 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 Appendix A.

### **State Pension Credit maximum Savings Credit**

24. The amount of the maximum Savings Credit will be £14.82 for a single person and £17.43 for a couple. These figures cannot be used to calculate a likely Savings Credit entitlement from April 2015. Savings Credit is calculated on an individual basis, using the income and capital of that person. In addition, HB (SPC) reg 27 states that the Pension Service calculation of income, capital and Savings Credit must be used.

### **National Insurance contributions rates**

25. A full set of rates for 2015 - 16 can be found on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rates-and-allowances-national-insurance-contributions>

### **Universal Credit**

26. Universal Credit is assessed and paid on a monthly basis. Universal Credit rates will uprate from the first day in the first assessment period which commences in week beginning 6 April 2015 or if no assessment period begins in that week, the assessment period in which the whole of that week falls. The rates can be found in Appendix C, Annex 5.

## Shared Parental Leave and Pay

27. Shared Parental Leave (SPL) and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (ShPP) replaces Additional Paternity Leave and Pay from 5 April 2015 if

- their baby is due on or after 5 April 2015, or
- they adopt a child on or after 5 April 2015.

28. The rates for ShPP can be found in Appendix D. More information about SPL and ShPP can be found at the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/shared-parental-leave-and-pay>.

## Establishing eligible rent

29. The calculation of eligible rent for a claimant renting in the social and private sectors is not affected by this circular or by the uprating of benefits overall. It continues to be subject to the rules in Part 3 of the HB Regulations 2006 and Part 3 of the HB (SPC) Regulations 2006.

**Appendix A**  
**Housing Benefit for people of working age**

Housing Benefit rates for people who have not reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit	April 2014 £ Weekly	April 2015 £ Weekly
<b>Personal Allowances</b>		
<b>Single</b>		
16 to 24	57.35	57.90
25 or over	72.40	73.10
Any age – entitled to main phase rate ESA	72.40	73.10
<b>Lone parent</b>		
Under 18	57.35	57.90
18 or over	72.40	73.10
Any age – entitled to main phase rate ESA	72.40	73.10
<b>Couple</b>		
Both under 18	86.65	87.50
One or both over 18	113.70	114.85
Any age – entitled to main phase rate ESA	113.70	114.85
<b>Polygamous Marriages</b>		
If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and no members of the marriage have attained the age of 60		
For the claimant and the other party to the marriage	113.70	114.85
For each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant	41.30	41.75
<b>Dependent children</b>		
From birth to September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
From September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday to day before 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
<b>Premiums</b>		
Family Premium	17.45	17.45
Family Premium (lone parent rate)	22.20	22.20
<b>Disability Premium</b>		
Single	31.85	32.25
Couple	45.40	45.95
<b>Enhanced Disability Premium</b>		
Single rate	15.55	15.75
Couple rate	22.35	22.60
Disabled child rate	24.08	24.43
<b>Severe Disability Premium</b>		
Single	61.10	61.85
Couple – one qualifies	61.10	61.85
Couple – both qualify	122.20	123.70
<b>Disabled Child Premium</b>		
	59.50	60.06

<b>Housing Benefit rates for people who have not reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Carer Premium</b>	34.20	34.60
<b>Components ESA(IR) and ESA (Contribution based)</b>		
Work-related activity component	28.75	29.05
Support component	35.75	36.20
<b>Deductions</b>		
Non-dependant deductions		
Aged under 25 and on IS or JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) which does not include an amount for the support component or work-related activity component	Nil	Nil
Aged 25 or over and on IS or JSA(IB), or aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work	14.15	14.55
In receipt of main phase ESA(IR)	14.15	14.55
In receipt of Pension Credit	Nil	Nil
Aged over 18 or over and in remunerative work		
- gross income less than £129.00	14.15	14.55
- gross income not less than £129.00 but less than £189.00	32.45	33.40
- gross income not less than £189.00 but less than £246.00	44.55	45.85
- gross income not less than £246.00 but less than £328.00	72.95	75.05
- gross income not less than £328.00 but less than £408.00	83.05	85.45
- gross income not less than £408.00	91.15	93.80
<b>Fuel deductions</b>		
Heating	27.55	28.80
Hot water	3.20	3.35
Lighting	2.20	2.30
Cooking	3.20	3.35
All fuel	36.15	37.80
<b>Fuel deductions one room</b>		
Heating and hot water and/or lighting	16.48	17.23
Cooking	3.20	3.35
<b>Amounts ineligible for meals</b>		
<b>Three or more meals a day</b>		
Single claimant	26.55	26.85
Each person in family aged 16 or over	26.55	26.85
Each child under 16	13.45	13.60
<b>Less than 3 meals a day</b>		
Single claimant	17.65	17.85
Each person in the family aged 16 or over	17.65	17.85
Each child under 16	8.90	9.00
Breakfast only – claimant and each member of family	3.25	3.30
<b>Disregards</b>		
Childcare charges	175.00	175.00
Childcare charges (2 or more children)	300.00	300.00

<b>Housing Benefit rates for people who have not reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
Additional earnings	17.10	17.10
Income from sub-tenants	20.00	20.00
Permitted earnings – higher <b>#See note below</b>	101.00	104.00
Permitted earnings – lower <b># See note below</b>	20.00	20.00
<b>Recovery of Overpayments</b>		
Non-fraudulent overpayments	10.95	11.10
Fraudulent overpayments	18.25	18.50
<b>Capital limits</b>		
Upper limit	16,000	16,000
Lower limit	6,000	6,000

**# The rates for the permitted earnings disregards are from October 2014 to October 2015**

Appendix B

HB for people of State Pension Credit age

Housing Benefit rates for people who have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit	April 2014 £ Weekly	April 2015 £ Weekly
<b>Personal Allowances</b>		
Single claimant aged under 65	148.35	151.20
Single claimant aged 65 or over	165.15	166.05
Lone parent aged under 65	148.35	151.20
Lone parent aged 65 or over	165.15	166.05
<b>Couple</b>		
One or both aged 60 or over but both under 65	226.50	230.85
One member or both members aged 65 or over	247.20	248.30
<b>Polygamous Marriages</b>		
If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and no members of the marriage have attained the age of 65		
For the claimant and the other party to the marriage	226.50	230.85
For each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant	78.15	79.65
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	247.20	248.30
For each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant	82.05	82.25
<b>Dependent children</b>		
From birth to September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
From September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday to day before 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
<b>Premiums</b>		
Family Premium	17.45	17.45
<b>Severe Disability Premium</b>		
Single	61.10	61.85
Couple – one qualifies	61.10	61.85
Couple – both qualify	122.20	123.70
<b>Enhanced Disability Premium</b>		
Disabled child rate	24.08	24.43
<b>Disabled Child Premium</b>		
	59.50	60.06



<b>Housing Benefit rates for people who have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Carer Premium</b>	34.20	34.60
<b>Deductions</b>		
<b>Non-dependant deductions</b>		
Aged under 25 and on IS or JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) which does not include an amount for the support component or work-related activity component	Nil	Nil
Aged 25 or over and on IS or JSA(IB) or aged over 18 or over and not in remunerative work	14.15	14.55
In receipt of main phase ESA(IR)	14.15	14.55
In receipt of State Pension Credit	Nil	Nil
Aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
- gross income less than £129.00	14.15	14.55
- gross income not less than £129.00 but less than £189.00	32.45	33.40
- gross income not less than £189.00 but less than £246.00	44.55	45.85
- gross income not less than £246.00 but less than £328.00	72.95	75.05
- gross income not less than £328.00 but less than £408.00	83.05	85.45
- gross income not less than £408.00	91.15	93.80
<b>Fuel deductions</b>		
Heating	27.55	28.80
Hot water	3.20	3.35
Lighting	2.20	2.30
Cooking	3.20	3.35
All fuel	36.15	37.80
<b>Fuel deductions for one room</b>		
Heating, hot water and/or lighting	16.48	17.23
Cooking	3.20	3.35
<b>Amounts ineligible for meals</b>		
<b>Three or more meals a day</b>		
Single claimant	26.55	26.85
Each person in family aged 16 or over	26.55	26.85
Each child under 16	13.45	13.60
<b>Less than 3 meals a day</b>		
Single claimant	17.65	17.85
Each person in family aged 16 or over	17.65	17.85
Each child under 16	8.90	9.00
Breakfast only - claimant and each member of family	3.25	3.30
<b>Disregards</b>		
Childcare charges	175.00	175.00
Childcare charges (2 or more children)	300.00	300.00
Additional earnings disregard	17.10	17.10
Income from sub-tenants	20.00	20.00
Permitted earnings – higher #See note on page 15	101.00	104.00

<b>Housing Benefit rates for people who have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
Permitted earnings – lower <b>#See note on page 15</b>	20.00	20.00
<b>Recovery of Overpayments</b>		
Non-fraudulent	10.95	11.10
Fraudulent	18.25	18.50
<b>Capital limits</b>		
Upper limit – State Pension Credit guarantee credit NOT in payment	16,000	16,000
Upper limit – State Pension Credit guarantee credit in payment	No limit	No limit
Lower limit – above the qualifying age for State Pension Credit	10,000	10,000

**# The rates for the permitted earnings disregards are from October 2014 to October 2015.**

Appendix C / Annex 1

Income Support rates	April 2014 £ Weekly	April 2015 £ Weekly
<b>Personal Allowances</b>		
<b>Single</b>		
Under 25	57.35	57.90
Aged 25 or over	72.40	73.10
<b>Lone parent</b>		
Under 18	57.35	57.90
Aged 18 or over	72.40	73.10
<b>Couple</b>		
Both under 18	57.35	57.90
Both under 18 – higher rate (for example with responsibility for a child)	86.65	87.50
One under 18, one 18 - 24	57.35	57.90
One under 18, one aged 25 or over	72.40	73.10
Both 18 or over	113.70	114.85
<b>Dependent children</b>		
Birth to September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
From September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday to day before 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
<b>Premiums</b>		
Family Premium	17.45	17.45
Family Premium (lone parent rate)	17.45	17.45
<b>Pensioner Premium (couples only)</b>	112.80	116.00
<b>Disability Premium</b>		
Single	31.85	32.25
Couple	45.40	45.95
<b>Enhanced Disability Premium</b>		
Single	15.55	15.75
Couple	22.35	22.60
Disabled child rate	24.08	24.43
<b>Severe Disability Premium</b>		
Single	61.10	61.85
Couple – one qualifies	61.10	61.85
Couple – both qualify	122.20	123.70
<b>Disabled child premium</b>	59.50	60.06
<b>Carer Premium</b>	34.20	34.60
<b>Capital limits</b>		
Upper	16,000	16,000
Lower	6,000	6,000

Appendix C / Annex 2

<b>Jobseeker's Allowance rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance</b>		
<b>Personal Rates</b>		
Under 25	57.35	57.90
Aged 25 or over	72.40	73.10
<b>Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance</b>		
<b>Personal Allowances</b>		
<b>Single</b>		
Under 25	57.35	57.90
Aged 25 or over	72.40	73.10
<b>Lone parent</b>		
Under 18	57.35	57.90
18 or over	72.40	73.10
<b>Couple</b>		
Both under 18	57.35	57.90
Both under 18 – higher rate (for example with responsibility for a child)	86.65	87.50
One under 18, one 18 - 24	57.35	57.90
One under 18, one aged 25 or over	72.40	73.10
Both 18 or over	113.70	114.85
<b>Dependent children</b>		
Birth to September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
From September following 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday to day before 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday	66.33	66.90
<b>Premiums</b>		
Family Premium	17.45	17.45
Family Premium (lone parent rate)	17.45	17.45
<b>Pensioner Premium</b>		
Single	75.95	78.10
Couple	112.80	116.00
<b>Disability Premium</b>		
Single	31.85	32.25
Couple	45.40	45.95
<b>Enhanced Disability Premium</b>		
Single	15.55	15.75
Couple	22.35	22.60
Disabled child rate	24.08	24.43
<b>Severe Disability Premium</b>		
Single	61.10	61.85
Couple – one qualifies	61.10	61.85
Couple – both qualify	122.20	123.70

<b>Jobseeker's Allowance rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Disabled child premium</b>	59.50	60.06
<b>Carer Premium</b>	34.20	34.60
<b>Capital limits</b>		
Upper	16,000	16,000
Lower	6,000	6,000

Appendix C / Annex 3

<b>Employment and Support Allowance rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Personal Allowances</b>		
<b>Single</b>		
Under 25 and in Assessment Phase	57.35	57.90
Aged 25 or over	72.40	73.10
Any age and in Main Phase	72.40	73.10
<b>Lone parent</b>		
Aged under 18 and in Assessment Phase	57.35	57.90
Aged 18 or over	72.40	73.10
Any age and in Main Phase	72.40	73.10
<b>Couple</b>		
Both under 18 and in Assessment Phase	57.35	57.90
Both under 18, with responsibility for a child and in Assessment Phase	86.65	87.50
Both under 18 and in Main Phase	72.40	73.10
Both under 18, with responsibility for a child and in Main Phase	113.70	114.85
One 18 or over and the other while under 18, also satisfies certain conditions	113.70	114.85
Both 18 or over	113.70	114.85
Claimant under 25 and in Assessment Phase and partner under 18	57.35	57.90
Claimant 25 or over and in Assessment Phase and partner under 18	72.40	73.10
Claimant in Main Phase and partner under 18	72.40	73.10
<b>Premiums</b>		
<b>Carer Premium</b>	34.20	34.60
<b>Enhanced Disability Premium</b>		
Single	15.55	15.75
Couple	22.35	22.60
<b>Pensioner Premium</b>		
Single and in Assessment Phase	75.95	78.10
Single, entitled to work-related activity component	47.20	49.05
Single, entitled to support component	40.20	41.90
Couple, and in Assessment Phase	112.80	116.00
Couple, entitled to work-related activity component	84.05	86.95
Couple, entitled to support component	77.05	79.80
<b>Severe Disability Premium</b>		
Single	61.10	61.85
Couple – one qualifies	61.10	61.85
Couple – both qualify	122.20	123.70
<b>Components</b>		
Work-related activity component	28.75	29.05
Support component	35.75	36.20

<b>Employment and Support Allowance rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Capital limits</b>		
Upper	16,000	16,000
Lower	6,000	6,000

Appendix C / Annex 4

<b>State Pension Credit Rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Standard guarantee credit</b>		
Single	148.35	151.20
Couple	226.50	230.85
<b>Additional amount for severe disability</b>		
Single	61.10	61.85
Couple (one qualifies)	61.10	61.85
Couple (both qualify)	122.20	123.70
<b>Polygamous marriages</b>		
Amount for claimant and first spouse	226.50	230.85
Amount for additional spouse	78.15	79.65
<b>Additional amount for carers (carer premium)</b>	34.20	34.60
<b>Savings credit</b>		
Threshold – single	120.35	126.50
Threshold – couple	192.00	201.80
Maximum – single	16.80	14.82
Maximum – couple	20.70	17.43



Appendix C / Annex 5

<b>Universal Credit Rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Assessment period</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Assessment period</b>
<b>Standard Allowance / Element</b>		
Single		
Under 25	249.28	251.77
25 or over	314.67	317.82
<b>Couple</b>		
Both under 25	391.29	395.20
One or both 25 or over	493.95	498.89
<b>Child element</b>		
First child	274.58	277.08
Second or subsequent child	229.17	231.67
<b>Additional amount for disabled child or qualifying young person</b>		
Lower rate	124.86	126.11
Higher rate	362.92	367.92
<b>Limited Capability for work / Limited Capability for work and work-related activity elements</b>		
Limited Capability for work	124.86	126.11
Limited Capability for work and work-related activity	311.86	315.60
<b>Non-dependants' housing cost contributions</b>	68.68	69.37
<b>Carer Element</b>	148.61	150.39

Appendix D

<b>Other contributory and non-contributory social security rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Additional Statutory Paternity Pay</b>		
Earnings threshold	111.00	112.00
Standard rate	138.18	139.58
<b>Attendance Allowance</b>		
Higher rate	81.30	82.30
Lower rate	54.45	55.10
<b>Bereavement Benefits</b>		
Bereavement Payment (lump sum)	2,000	2,000
<b>Widowed Parent's Allowance</b>		
	111.20	112.55
<b>Bereavement Allowance</b>		
Standard Rate	111.20	112.55
<b>Age-related rate</b>		
Age 54	103.42	104.67
Age 53	95.63	96.79
Age 52	87.85	88.91
Age 51	80.06	81.04
Age 50	72.28	73.16
Age 49	64.50	65.28
Age 48	56.71	57.40
Age 47	48.93	49.52
Age 46	41.14	41.64
Age 45	33.36	33.77
<b>Carers Allowance</b>		
Standard rate	61.35	62.10
Dependency increase	36.10	36.55
<b>Disability Living Allowance</b>		
<b>Care component</b>		
Higher rate	81.30	82.30
Middle rate	54.45	55.10
Lower rate	21.55	21.80
<b>Mobility component</b>		
Higher rate	56.75	57.45
Lower rate	21.55	21.80
<b>Incapacity Benefit</b>		
<b>Long term Incapacity Benefit</b>		
Single	104.10	105.35
Spouse or adult dependant (where appropriate)	60.45	61.20

<b>Other contributory and non-contributory social security rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Short term Incapacity Benefit (under pension age)</b>		
Lower rate	78.50	79.45
Higher rate	92.95	94.05
Spouse or adult dependant (where appropriate)	47.10	47.65
<b>Short term Incapacity Benefit (over pension age)</b>		
Lower rate	99.90	101.10
Higher rate	104.10	105.35
Spouse or adult dependant (where appropriate)	58.20	58.90
<b>Increase of long term Incapacity Benefit for age</b>		
Higher rate	11.00	11.15
Lower rate	6.15	6.20
<b>Invalidity Allowance (transitional) for Incapacity Benefit recipients</b>		
Higher rate	11.00	11.15
Middle rate	6.15	6.20
Lower rate	6.15	6.20
<b>Industrial Death Benefit</b>		
<b>Widow's Pension</b>		
Higher rate	113.10	115.95
Lower rate	33.93	34.79
<b>Widower's pension</b>	113.10	115.95
<b>Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit</b>		
Disablement Benefit (100% assessment)	166.00	168.00
Unemployability supplement	102.60	103.85
Reduced earnings allowance (maximum)	66.40	67.20
<b>Maternity Allowance</b>		
Standard Rate	138.18	139.58
Threshold	30.00	30.00
<b>Personal Independence Payment</b>		
<b>Daily Living Component</b>		
Standard Rate	54.45	55.10
Enhanced Rate	81.30	82.30
<b>Mobility component</b>		
Standard rate	21.55	21.80
Enhanced rate	56.75	57.45
<b>Severe Disablement Allowance</b>		
Basic rate	73.75	74.65
Spouse or other adult dependant (where appropriate)	36.30	36.75
Age-related additions		

<b>Other contributory and non-contributory social security rates</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
Higher rate	11.00	11.15
Middle rate	6.15	6.20
Lower rate	6.15	6.20
<b>State Retirement Pension</b>		
Category A or B (Single Person)	113.10	115.95
Category B (lower) – spouse or civil partner’s insurance	67.80	69.50
Category C (higher) or Category D – non-contributory	67.80	69.50
Category C (lower) – non-contributory	40.50	41.50
<b>Additional State Pension – rate may vary</b>		
	2.70%	1.20%
<b>Increments to:</b>		
Basic State Pension	2.70%	1.20%
Additional State Pension	2.70%	1.20%
Graduated Retirement Benefit	2.70%	1.20%
Inheritable lump sum	2.70%	1.20%
<b>Addition at age 80</b>		
	0.25	0.25
Adult dependency increase for spouse or person looking after children	64.90	65.70
<b>Increase in respect of long-term incapacity for age:</b>		
Higher rate	21.25	21.50
Lower rate	10.65	10.80
<b>Invalidity Allowance (transitional)</b>		
Higher rate	21.25	21.50
Middle rate	13.70	13.90
Lower rate	6.85	6.95
<b>Statutory Adoption Pay</b>		
Earnings threshold	111.00	112.00
Standard rate	138.18	139.58
<b>Statutory Maternity Pay</b>		
Earnings threshold	111.00	112.00
Standard rate	138.18	139.58
<b>Statutory Paternity Pay</b>		
Earnings threshold	111.00	112.00
Standard rate	138.18	139.58
<b>Statutory Shared Parental Pay</b>		
Earnings threshold	-	112.00
Standard rate	-	139.58
<b>Statutory Sick Pay</b>		
Earnings threshold	111.00	112.00
Standard rate	87.55	88.45

Appendix E / Annex 1

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

<b>£ per year (unless stated)</b>	<b>2014 – 2015</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>2015 - 2016</b>
<b>Working Tax Credit</b>			
Basic element	1,940	20	1,960
Couple and lone parent element	1,990	20	2,010
Thirty Hour element	800	10	810
Disabled worker element	2,935	35	2,970
Severe disability element	1,255	20	1,275
<b>Childcare element of Working Tax Credit</b>			
Maximum eligible cost of one child (per week)	175	-	175
Maximum eligible cost for two or more children (per week)	300	-	300
Percentage of eligible costs covered	70%	-	70%
<b>Child Tax Credit</b>			
Family element	545	-	545
Child element	2,750	30	2,780
Disabled child element	3,100	40	3,140
Severely disabled child element	1,255	20	1,275
<b>Income thresholds and withdrawal rates</b>			
Income threshold	6,420	-	6,420
Withdrawal rate (per cent %)	41%	-	41%
Threshold for those entitled to Child Tax Credit only	16,010	95	16,105
Income rise disregard	5,000	-	5,000
Income fail disregard	2,500	-	2,500
<b>Child Benefit (weekly)</b>			
Eldest/only child	20.50	20	20.70
Other children	13.55	0.15	13.70
<b>Guardian's Allowance (weekly)</b>			
	16.35	20	16.55

Appendix E / Annex 2

**War Pensions Rates**

<b>War Pensions Scheme Benefits</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>War Pensions</b>		
Disablement Pension (100% rates) officer (£ per annum)	9,189.00	
Other ranks	176.10	
<b>Age allowances payable from age 65</b>		
40% - 50%	11.80	
Over 50% but not over 70%	18.15	
Over 70% but not over 90%	25.80	
Over 90%	36.30	
<b>Disablement gratuity (one-off payment)</b>		
Specified minor injury (min)	1,123.00	
Specified minor injury (max)	8,374.00	
1 – 5% gratuity	2,800.00	
6 – 14% gratuity	6,225.00	
15 – 19% gratuity	10,887.00	
<b>Supplementary Allowances</b>		
<b><i>Unemployability allowance</i></b>		
Personal	108.80	
Adult dependency increase	60.45	
Increase for first child	14.05	
Increase for subsequent children	16.55	
<b>Invalidity allowance</b>		
Higher rate	21.55	
Middle rate	14.00	
Lower rate	7.00	
<b>Constant attendance allowance</b>		
Exceptional rate	132.80	
Intermediate rate	99.60	
Full day rate	66.40	
Part day rate	33.20	
<b>Comforts allowance</b>		
Higher rate	28.60	
Lower rate	14.30	
<b>Mobility supplement</b>	63.40	
<b>Allowance for lowered standard occupation (maximum)</b>	66.40	
<b>Therapeutic earnings limit (annual rate)</b>	5,252.00	
<b>Exceptionally severe disablement allowance</b>	66.40	

<b>War Pensions Scheme Benefits</b>	<b>April 2014 £ Weekly</b>	<b>April 2015 £ Weekly</b>
<b>Severe disablement occupational allowance</b>	33.20	
<b>Clothing allowance (£ per annum)</b>	227.00	
<b>Education allowance (£ per annum) (max)</b>	120.00	
<b>Widow(er)s benefits</b>		
Widow(er) – other ranks (basic with children) (weekly amount)	133.55	
Widow(er) – Officer higher rate both wars (basic with children) (per annum)	7,102.00	
Childless widow(er) under 40 (other ranks)(weekly amount)	31.99	
Widow(er) – officer lower rates both wars (£ per annum)	2,467.00	
<b>Supplementary 1973 Widows/Widowers pension</b>	89.34	
Age allowance		
(a) age 65 to 69	15.20	
(b) age 70 to 79	29.25	
(c) age 80 and over	43.40	
<b>Children's allowance</b>		
Increase for first child	20.95	
Increase for subsequent children	23.45	
<b>Orphan's pension</b>		
Increase for first child	23.95	
Increase for subsequent children	26.25	
<b>Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max)</b>	131.20	
<b>Rent allowance (maximum)</b>	50.30	
<b>Adult orphan's pension (maximum)</b>	102.60	





<b>Schedule 3 - Applicable amounts: persons who are not pensioners</b>	<b>01/04/2014 (current)</b>	<b>01/04/2015 (proposed)</b>
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>A single applicant who—</b>		
is entitled to main phase employment and support allowance;	£72.40	£73.10
is aged not less than 25	£72.40	£73.10
is aged not less than 18 but less than 25	£57.35	£57.90
Lone parent	£72.40	£73.10
Couple	£113.70	£114.85
<b>Child or Young Person in respect of the period—</b>		
beginning on that person's date of birth and ending on the day preceding the first Monday in September following that person's sixteenth birthday;	£66.33	£66.90
beginning on the first Monday in September following that person's sixteenth birthday and ending on the day preceding that person's twentieth birthday.	£66.33	£66.90
<b>Family Premium</b>		
Family Premium	£17.45	£17.45
Family Premium (Lone Parent Rate)	£22.20	£22.20
<b>Disability Premium</b>		
Single	£31.85	£32.25
Couple	£45.40	£45.95
<b>Severe Disability Premium</b>		
Single applicant	£61.10	£61.85
Couple (one qualifies)	£61.10	£61.85
Couple (both qualify)	£122.20	£123.70
Disabled Child Premium	£59.50	£60.06
Carer Premium	£34.20	£34.60
<b>Enhanced disability premium</b>		
Enhanced disability premium (child or young person)	£24.08	£24.43
Single applicant	£15.55	£15.75
a member of a couple or a polygamous marriage	£22.35	£22.60
<b>ESA Components</b>		
work-related activity	£28.75	£29.05
support	£35.75	£36.20

<b>30A - Non-dependant deductions – claims from persons who are not pensioners</b>	
Note - if a benefit claimant receives the care component of DLA or is registered blind no deductions apply to the CTR otherwise deductions relate to age and circumstances of non-dependant. Only one deduction is made for a non-dependant couple - being the highest that would otherwise have applied	
<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>Current</b>
Under 18 years old	NIL
Full-time Students (even during summer vacations)	NIL
Aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work and not full time student	£3.70
Aged 18 or over and in remunerative work:	
- gross income £406.00 or more	£11.25
- gross income £326.00 - £405.99	£9.40
- gross income £188.00 - £325.99	£7.45
- gross income less than £188	£3.70
(Note remunerative work = 16 hours or more)	
<b>Apr-15</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Under 18 years old	NIL
Full-time Students (even during summer vacations)	NIL
Aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work and not full time student	£3.74
Aged 18 or over and in remunerative work:	
- gross income £408.00 or more	£11.36
- gross income £328.00 - £407.99	£9.49
- gross income £189.00 - £327.99	£7.52
- gross income less than £189	£3.74
(Note remunerative work = 16 hours or more)	

<b>Schedule 4 - Alternative maximum council tax reduction: persons who are not pensioners and who are in receipt of a war pension, war disablement pension, war widows pension, war widower's pension</b>	
<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>Current</b>
Second adult on IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IR) living with full-time student householder	100%
Second adult in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)/ESA(IR) or Pension Credit	25%
Second adult gross income is:	
- less than £185.00	15%
- £185.00 to £240.99	7.50%

<b>Apr-15</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Second adult on IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IR) living with full-time student householder	100%
Second adult in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)/ESA(IR) or Pension Credit	25%
Second adult gross income is:	
- less than £187.00	15%
- £187.00 to £242.99	7.50%