

Date	Area	Detail
February 2011	Re-assessment of IS disability, IB and SDA claims	The migration to ESA from Incapacity Benefit, Income Support as a result of disability and Severe Disablement Allowance starts in earnest from February 2011 and will finish March 2014
April 2011	Local Housing Allowance (LHA)	LHA rates will be set by the 30th percentile figure rather than the 50th percentile figure at present
		£15 excess for LHA to be abolished
		5 bedroom rate of LHA to be abolished so the maximum paid will be 4 bedroom rate
		Caps introduced on the LHA rates for each size category, e.g. maximum of £400 per week for 4 bedrooms
		Non-resident carers will be included in the room calculation for LHA
	Housing and Council Tax Benefit	The amount of the non-dependant deductions (NDD) will start increasing. For the last few years it has only been the income bands that have changed, not the deductions
	Discretionary Housing Payments	Increase in funding and allowances to Local Authorities, followed by an increase in 2012. It is expected that the majority of the increase will go to London authorities and there is some doubt as to whether LAs will receive enough funding to support the changes i.e. single room rate increased to claimants under 35
	Working Tax Credit (WTC)	The percentage of child care costs paid through WTC reduces from 80% to 70%
	Child Tax Credits	The basic and 30 hour elements frozen for three years
		Increase in child element, and again in April 2012
		The baby element (£10.50) paid where there is at least one child under the age of one which reflects in a higher family premium in HB/CTB is abolished. This will apply to both new and existing cases with no transitional protection
	Over 75 + income tax	No pensioner aged 75 or over will have to pay any tax until their income reaches £10,000
	Savings Credit	The maximum Savings Credit amount frozen for four years
NI Contributions	Employees will make a higher contribution	

January 2012	Housing Benefit (HB)	The Shared Room Rate is to be extended to apply to single claimants under 35, from the current position of applying to those under 25. This has been brought forward from April 2012 to bring the timing more closely into line with the changes in Local Housing Allowance, to avoid the impact of two reductions in housing benefit to anyone affected by both changes, over a relatively short period of time
April 2012	Working Tax Credit	Increase in the number of hours of work required for a couple with children from 16 to 24, with one partner working at least 16 hours
	Employment and Support Allowance	Contribution based ESA with Work Related Activity component time limited to one year
January 2013	Child Benefit	Withdrawn from families with a high rate taxpayer (earning above approximately £42,000).
April 2013	Universal Credit	The Universal Credit will replace the various means-tested working age benefits (including Housing Benefit) with the aim of being simpler to claim and administer, reduce fraud and error and ensure that it is more beneficial to be in work than out of work. It is intended to start introducing this in 2013 and complete the exercise by 2017
	Council Tax Benefit	Council Tax Benefit is not included in the Universal Credit and spending on it will be reduced by 10% and devolved to Scotland from 2013
	Housing Benefit	Size criteria assessments for working age HB claims in social housing (i.e. Council houses and Housing Association tenancies)
	Local Housing Allowance	LHA rates will not be determined through analysis of the rental market and instead will increase in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
	All Benefits	The total amount of benefits awarded to workless households will be capped at the median level of income after tax for a working household (expected to be around £500 per week for lone parents and couples, £350 per week for single adults). The cap includes Housing Benefit and will be administered by Local Authorities unless the claimant receives Universal Credit. The cap does not apply to households receiving Disability Living Allowance, War Widows or Working Tax Credit
	Fraud	Fraud Investigation Service created, although the implications for LA Fraud staff are not yet clear
March 2014	Incapacity benefits abolished	Income Support re-assessment complete. Incapacity benefits no longer in payment.
April 2016	State Pension Age	The increase in State Pension Age for women is to be accelerated from April 2016 so that it reaches 65 by November 2018 and then both men and women will rise to 66 by April 2020. The planned increase to 68 is likely to be accelerated also