



Universal Credit
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www.gov.uk

Telephone: 0345 600 0723

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If you contact us, use this
reference:

<NINO>

<NGS date>

Dear <Title> <Surname>

Universal Credit – Changes to the benefit cap

The amount of the benefit cap is changing, even if your benefit is capped already. We expect this will happen in late autumn 2016. The benefit cap is the total amount your household can get in benefits. By household we mean you, your partner and any dependants that live with you.

What this means for you

Your Universal Credit may go down, so that the total amount of your household benefits is not more than the new amount of the benefit cap.

This may mean you have to manage your money differently to budget on a monthly basis and pay your bills.

The new level of the benefit cap may apply to you, so we want to make sure you are ready for this change.

Finding work could mean the benefit cap wouldn't apply to you.

Your household will be exempt from the benefit cap if you earn £430 or more per month or if you live with a partner and you jointly earn this amount per month.

The new amounts of the benefit cap will be:

About your household	Where you live	Each year	Approximately each month**	Approximately each week**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your household is made up of a couple (with or without children), or • If you are a lone parent (and the children you look after live with you) 	Great Britain, but not Greater London	£20,000	£1,667	£385
	Greater London*	£23,000	£1,917	£442
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are a single person and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > you have no children, or > the children you look after don't live with you 	Great Britain, but not Greater London	£13,400	£1,117	£258
	Greater London*	£15,410	£1,284	£296
*By Greater London we mean the City of London and the 32 London boroughs. You can find out more at www.gov.uk/benefit-cap				
**By approximately, we mean that the monthly and weekly figures may be slightly different to the figures shown above.				

How we can help you

You may already meet with one of our work coaches to help you find work. If so, we will continue to help you. If you don't regularly meet with one of our work coaches and you wish to discuss how we can help you, please contact us so we can help you find work, learn new skills, advise you with budgeting and housing costs and with options for child care. The contact telephone number is on the first page of this letter.

How you can find out more

We've given information at the end of this letter about which benefits will count and which benefits will not count towards the lower benefit cap.

You can find out more information by going to www.gov.uk/benefit-cap

More help and information

- You can get help and advice from Citizens Advice who will provide free and confidential advice. Find your local Citizens Advice in the phone book or Yellow Pages, or go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- Your Local Authority will be able to offer you budgeting advice and can tell you if you may be able to get a Discretionary Housing Payment, by this we mean money which might help you to pay your rent. They may be able to help you if you want to find somewhere cheaper to live. To contact your local authority visit www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council or look in your local phone book.
- Shelter offers confidential advice on housing, benefits and debt. Call the Freephone Housing Advice Helpline on 0808 800 4444. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, and Saturday to Sunday 8am to 5pm. Or you can go to www.shelter.org.uk in England and Scotland or www.sheltercymru.org.uk in Wales.

If you need help managing your money

If you need help managing your money please contact the Money Advice Service as soon as you can. They offer free independent advice about how to make the best of your money, including budgeting, savings and dealing with debt. To find out more, go to www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

Equality and Diversity

We are committed to treating people fairly, regardless of their disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, transgender status, marital or civil partnership status, age, religion or beliefs. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Office Manager

Who the benefit cap won't apply to

The benefit cap won't apply to you if you, your partner or any children living with you can get any of the benefits listed below.

- Industrial Injuries Benefits (and the equivalent payments as part of a war disablement pension or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme)
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
- The support group amount of Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit (where you or your partner if you have one, are in receipt of the extra amount payable for having Limited Capability for Work and Work Related Activity)
- War pensions
- War Widow's or War Widower's Pension

If you think you may be able to get one of these benefits, you can find out more at www.gov.uk/benefits-adviser

Please note that any adult children living with you would not normally count as part of your household. So, if they are claiming one of these benefits, the benefit cap may still change your own amount of payment.

Carer's Allowance, the equivalent payment for carers in UC, and Guardian's Allowance currently count towards the benefit cap. Once the changes happen, if you, your partner or any children you're responsible for can get Carer's Allowance, the equivalent payment for carers in UC, or Guardian's Allowance, the benefit cap will not apply to you.

Benefits that will count towards the cap

These benefits all count when working out how much you can get a week:

- Bereavement Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Contributory Employment and Support Allowance (except where it is paid with the support group amount)
- **Carer's Allowance
- **Guardian's Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Contributory Jobseeker's Allowance
- Maternity Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Universal Credit (except where you or your partner if you have one, are in receipt of the extra amount payable for having Limited Capability for Work and Work Related Activity)
- Widowed Parent's Allowance
- Widowed Mother's Allowance
- Widow's Pension, including the age-related component

**** Carer's Allowance, the equivalent payment for carers in UC, and Guardian's Allowance currently count towards the benefit cap. Once the changes happen, if you, your partner or any children you're responsible for can get Carer's Allowance, the equivalent payment for carers in UC, or Guardian's Allowance, the benefit cap will not apply to you.**

