

Appendix 1 - Glossary of Welfare Reforms

Welfare reform	The collective name for changes to the social security system, i.e. money paid to individuals and families by the government to provide a minimum income and additional income for specific purposes/needs.
Universal Credit (UC)	The benefit system that replaces six means tested benefits with a single payment. Live Service = Original version of UC which closed to new claimants on 1 January 2018. Full Service = Full digital service. Claimant has an online account to manage their claim.
Employment Support Allowance (ESA)	A benefit for those who can't work due to illness or disability. The 'Support Group' has no work related requirements. The 'Work Related Activity Group' are expected to undertake actions to move them closer to the labour market like work experience and interviews with their Work Coach. Contributions-based ESA (now called 'new style') is based on income and is now being absorbed into UC.
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	A benefit for unemployed people who are looking for work. Contributions-based JSA (now called 'new style') is based on a person's National Insurance contributions, can last for up to 182 days and can be claimed alongside UC (although the JSA amount will be deducted from the UC claim). Income-based JSA is based on income and is now being absorbed into UC.
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	Benefit to help with the extra costs of living with a disability. Now being replaced with PIP. Includes a care component and a mobility component.
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	Replacing DLA but has different qualifying conditions which are stricter and reduce the financial award levels from three to two. Includes a daily living component and a mobility component. In 2018 the DWP announced that they were reviewing all 1.6 million claims for PIP following a court ruling which stated that the PIP assessments of mental illness and its effects were discriminatory.
Legacy benefits	The benefits to be replaced by UC: Job Seekers Allowance (income-based), Employment Support Allowance (income-based), Income Support, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.
Benefit cap	A limit on the total amount of benefit that working age

	people can get. Currently, £20,000 for families/couples and £13,400 for single people (outside of London). Some benefits are exempt e.g. ESA Support Group, Working Tax Credit, DLA/PIP.
Housing Benefit	Benefit to help pay rent for claimants who are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits. It is being replaced by UC.
Under-occupancy	Since April 2013, there has been a limit on the number of bedrooms that working age social housing tenants can claim for through Housing Benefit. Dependent on the number and age of children and other requirements such as carers required to stay overnight, claimants have seen a reduction in their Housing Benefit to a level which will cover the bedrooms they are deemed to require.
Tax credits	Includes child tax credits for those with children, and working tax credits for those on low incomes. From April 2017, there has been 2 child limit on tax credit support. Additionally, the family element of tax credits was removed on the same date. Lastly, the remaining elements of the tax credits system are being absorbed by UC.