

**November 2021**

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**Free Benefits Newsletter**

*For professionals*

**Benefit Change Budgets Guide**

[Click here](#) to access our at a glance guide to Benefit Changes in the Autumn budget/ Spending review 2021.

Book now for our updated- [Introduction to Benefits 2021](#) course.

Area of Benefits Affected	Benefit Change	Reference: Autumn Budget and Spending Review date 27.10.2021
<b>Benefit changes</b>		reference
Universal Credit- earnings taper	By December 2021, reduce the earnings taper from 63% to 55%	2.94
Decrease in work allowances	By December 2021, increase work allowances (earnings disregard) by £500. Taper and work allowances changes will cost £2.49 billion by 2024/25.	2.94
Living Wage / minimum wage increase	From April 2022, a 6.5% increase to the National Living Wage (NLW) to £9.50 an hour for those over aged 23. increasing the rate for 21 to 22 year olds by 9.8% from £6.96 to £6.83 per hour increasing the rate for 18 to 20 year olds by 4.1% from £6.02 to £6.41 per hour increasing the rate for 16 to 17 year olds by 4.1% from £4.30 to £4.41 per hour	2.96 & 5.5
Household Support Fund Confirmed	£500 million Household Support Fund (Winter 2021) administered by Local Authorities.	2.24
		4.101

**examples-Changes in UC- Sept/Oct/Dec**

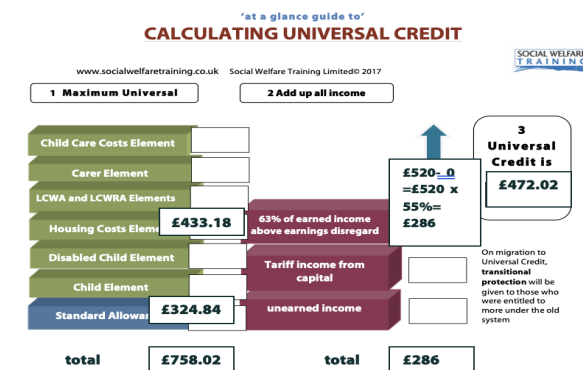
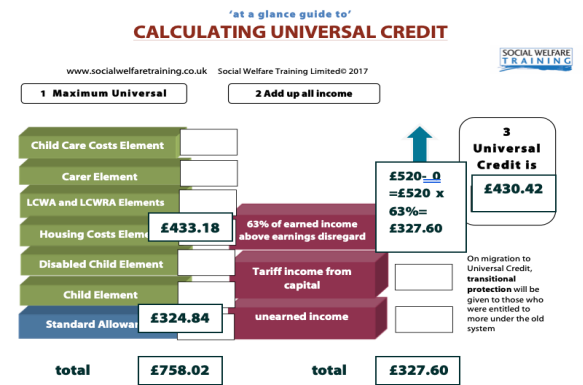
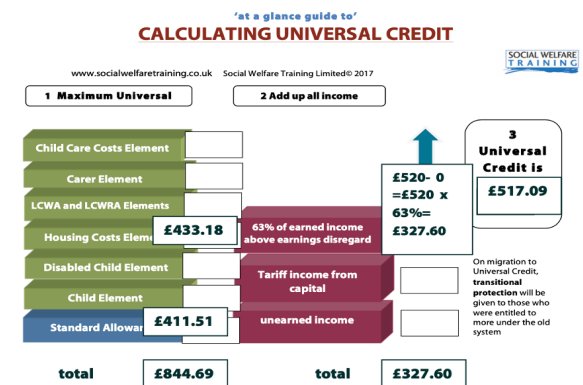
September 2021- Before the UC changes- John age 35 single, renting from the council £433.18 per month, net wages £520 per month.

October 2021 After the UC cut, his standard allowance has reduced from £411.51 to £324.84- leaving him £86.67 per month worse off.

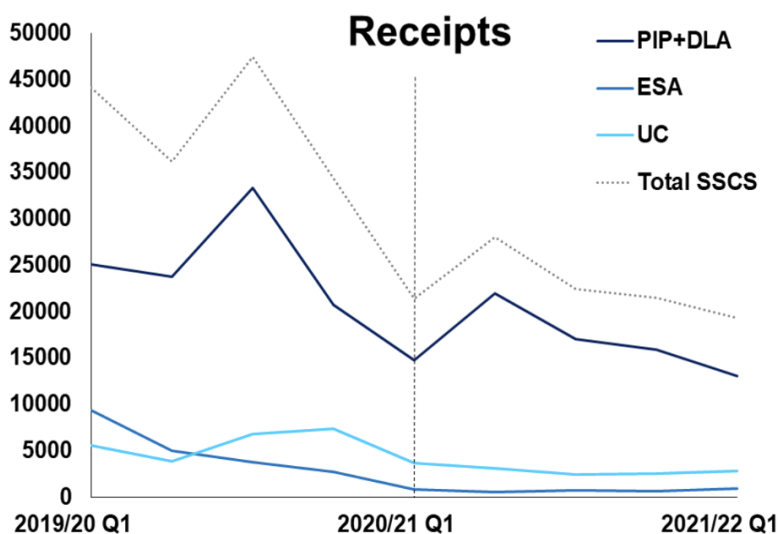
December 2021 The earnings taper is reduced from 63% to 55% leaving John £41.60 per month better off.

However he is still worse off than in September by £45.07 per month.

**Book Now-** [Introduction to Debt Advice course 2021](#)  
[An Overview of Universal Credit 2021](#) and our **updated-**  
[Universal Credit – the Tricky Parts 2021](#) course.



# Benefit Appeals Halve



[Quarterly statistics](#) Ministry of Justice Tribunal Statistics Quarterly, April to June 2019

show a further decrease in success rate for claimants-

- 62% had the initial decision revised in favour of the claimant (down from 70% in 2020).
- This overturn rate varied by benefit type, with PIP at 70%, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) 65%, Employment Support Allowance (ESA) 57%, and UC 46%.
- PIP and UC appeals accounted for 61% and 15% of all SSCS receipts respectively in April to June 2021.
- The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) changes to benefit processes in response to the pandemic, such as the temporary suspension of face-to-face assessments for health and disability-related benefits, will have contributed to a fall in SSCS tribunal receipts.
- SSCS tribunal receipts decreased by 10% this quarter, to 19,000 appeals, when compared to April to June 2020. the mean age of a case at disposal was 39 weeks, 8 more weeks than in the same period in 2020.

**Book Now-** [Benefit Appeals 2021](#) course.

## Carers Allowance- perhaps a 66% take up rate?

Carer's Allowance (CA) is a non-contributory benefit for people who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week, who are not gainfully employed (i.e. not earning more than £128 per week after certain deductions) and who are not in full-time education. The severely disabled person must be getting either the highest or middle rate of Disability Living Allowance care component, Daily living PIP or Attendance Allowance, or a Constant Attendance Allowance at the maximum rate under the War Pensions or Industrial Injuries Scheme.

1,267,019 people [are entitled](#) to Carers Allowance(2018), but 842,830 claims are in payment. This leaves perhaps around 400,000 carers not claiming.

Book now for our updated [Benefits for Carers 2021](#) course.

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