

Changes in circumstances whilst in receipt of benefits - couples

It is your responsibility to inform the relevant Departments of any changes in your circumstances to avoid a potential overpayment/underpayment. Disclaimer: This is not full guidance, always refer to www.gov.uk for the most up to date information

What you're in receipt of now	How and when will things change?	What will I get in the future?
Jobseekers Allowance	Jobseekers Allowance will end when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you or your partner begin work of 16 hours per week or more; or • your earnings exceed your JSA. 	You will need to claim Universal Credit as a couple: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit
Employment and Support Allowance	Employment and Support Allowance will end: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you or your partner begin work of 16 hours per week or more; or • when your earnings exceed your ESA; or • you may be able to stay on ESA and do "Permitted Work"; or • you are found to be fit for work. 	You will need to claim Universal Credit as a couple: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit Permitted work rules explained: www.gov.uk/government/publications/employment-and-support-allowance-permitted-work-form/permited-work-factsheet
Income Support (including a top up to Carer's Allowance)	Income Support will end when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you or your partner start work of 16/24 hours or more per week; or • your earnings exceed your Income Support; or • when your Carers Allowance payments cease. 	You will need to claim Universal Credit as a couple: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit
Housing Benefit	Most changes are likely to trigger moving to Universal Credit. Refer to www.entitledto.co.uk/help/changes_that_trigger_Universal_Credit	Contact your local District Council first www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/your-other-local-councils , and if advised claim Universal Credit www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit
Council Tax Reduction	Council Tax Reduction is calculated on a sliding scale, the more you earn, the less you get. If you remain on a low income, a proportion of your Council Tax may still be paid.	For an accurate forecast, refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your local District Council www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/your-other-local-councils; or • www.entitledto.co.uk; or • www.turn2us.org.uk
Child Benefit	Child Benefit will not usually change when you return to work. Child benefit will remain in payment until your child leaves approved education or training or turns 20 years of age.	If you earn over £50k per year, you may have to pay a <i>high income child benefit charge</i> www.gov.uk/child-benefit-tax-charge If Child Benefit stops, Child Tax Credits or the Child Element of Universal Credit will cease.

What you're in receipt of now	How and when will things change?	What will I get in the future?
Child Tax Credit	<p>If one or both of you start work and you have no housing costs or a mortgage, you currently have a choice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim working tax credit alongside child tax credit; or • Claim Universal Credit. <p>However, if you do have housing costs, you will need to claim Universal Credit.</p>	<p>Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits and Universal Credit. How much you get depends on your circumstances and income. For an accurate forecast refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.entitledto.co.uk; or • www.turn2us.org.uk. <p>You can get help with approved childcare costs on Tax Credits up to £530.83 extra per month for 1 child, or up to £910 for 2 or more children. With Universal Credit, you can receive help with approved childcare costs up to £646 per month for one child or up to £1108 per month for 2 or more.</p>
Working Tax Credit	<p>If your working hours fall below 24 or increase above 24, you need to inform Tax Credits straight away.</p> <p>You may be advised to claim Universal Credit.</p>	<p>Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits and Universal Credit. How much you get depends on your circumstances and income. For an accurate forecast refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.entitledto.co.uk; or • www.turn2us.org.uk. <p>Your tax credit award will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>Claim Universal Credit and your benefit will be adjusted each month according to what you have earned.</p>
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	<p>PIP continues regardless of a new job as it is not a means tested benefit. PIP will continue for the duration of your award, unless it stops due to your health improving.</p>	<p>Refer to www.gov.uk/pip or contact the PIP Helpline 0800 121 4433.</p>
Carers Allowance	<p>Carers Allowance will end if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you start earning £128 or more per week after tax, insurance and expenses (however you may be eligible for the Carers component of Universal Credit); or • your caring responsibilities reduce below 35 hours per week or stop altogether. (This may end your Income Support claim); or • you return to full-time Education or Training; or • the person you care for dies. 	<p>Refer to www.gov.uk/carers-allowance or contact the Carer's Allowance Helpline 0345 608 4321.</p> <p>Make a claim to Universal Credit www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit</p> <p>What you may be entitled to depends on your circumstances and income, refer to www.entitledto.co.uk or www.turn2us.org.uk for an accurate forecast.</p> <p>Depending on your circumstances, you may be entitled to alternate financial support through your training provider, student finance or potentially Universal Credit.</p> <p>You will receive an 8-week run of Carers Allowance following a death. This applies to Income Support too. After this claim Universal Credit www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit.</p>