**Benefit Changes Announced since the General Election 2010**

Table 1 : Changes announced in the emergency budget

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| **Announcement** | **Commencement date** | **Comment** |
| LHA Caps | 1/4/11 onwards (anniversary dates) | Labour amendment defeated 9/11/10. |
| LHA £15 top-up | 1/4/11 onwards (anniversary dates) |  |
| An extra room for a non-resident carer of a disabled claimant | 1/4/11 onwards |  |
| LHA 30th percentile restrictions | Oct 2011 onwards  (anniversary dates) |  |
| LHA 5 bedroom rate removed | 1/4/11 onwards (anniversary dates?) |  |
| Non-dep deductions will be uprated | 1/4/11 | “staged increases” |
| LHA will uprate in line with CPI, not on the local market rent trend. | April 2013 onwards |  |
| Size criteria introduced for working age social rented sector | April 2013 onwards |  |
| Customers on JSA will only get their full HB for 12 months, then it will fall by 10% | “Longer term reform” | 2013, we understand |
| DHP budget increase by £10 m | 2011-12 |  |
| DHP budget increase by £40m pa | April 2012 onwards |  |

Table 2 : Changes announced at the Conservative Party Conference on 4th and 5th October 2010

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| **Announcement** | **Commencement date** | **Comment** |
| People will not be allowed to receive more in benefits than the average working family | BBC says this is planned from 2013 | Thought to be about £26,000 pa, and £18,200 for single people |
| Child Benefit withdrawn from higher band tax payers | From 2013 |  |
| Universal Credit | On *Newsnight* 21/10/10 IDS said that some people will be on Universal Credit by 2015 and the rest by 2017 | IDS confirms intention |
| [New Enterprise Allowance](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/new-enterprise-allowance/) | phased in from Jan 2011 | Up to £2000 to help long-term unemployed to set-up a business |

Table 3: Changes announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review 20th October 2010

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| **Announcement** | **Commencement date** | **Comment** |
| Shared Accommodation LHA rate to be extended to under 35s | April 2012 |  |
| C-ESA to be limited to 1 year for WRAC only | April 2012 | Source: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/spending-review-2010/> |
| DLA (Mobility) to be stopped for people in care homes | October 2012 | Source: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/spending-review-2010/> |
| CTB to be cut by 10% under local rules | April 2013 | CTB will be kept out of Universal Credit, we understand |
| Pension (Savings) Credits: max award will be frozen until 2015 | I think it means frozen from 2011/12 to 2014/15 |  |
| WTC for couples: must do at least 24 hours and one of the couple must be doing at least 16 hours | April 2012 | according to <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416108&SubjectId=2> |
| WTC freeze | frozen for three years from April 2011 |  |
| Childcare in WTC cut to 70% again | “in April 2011” |  |
| People not allowed to get >£500 pw in benefits (£350 for single people). | April 2013 | also announced at Conference |
| Child Benefit withdrawn from higher band tax payers | From *January* 2013 | also announced at Conference |
| Social Housing can charge market rents to new tenants via intermediate rental contracts. | ? |  |
| Cut in social housing grant | ? | cut from £8.4bn over the previous three year period to £4.4bn over the next four years. |
| Increase in CTC | April 2011 |  |
| Increase in Mortgage Interest Support | Jan 11 – Jan 12 | I think this is merely continuing for 1 yr the temporary easement already in place |

Table 4: Other announcements

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| **Announcement** | **Commencement date** | **Comment** |
| On 27/10/10 the BBC reported that there will be a £10m grant from the Government’s homelessness budget to ease the cuts. | ? | Not clear whether this is DHP or something else. If it is DHP, is this the same £10m as already announced (see Table 1), or extra? Again, we don’t know. |
| Universal Credit start date | 2013 | According to *HB Direct,* a DWP magazine, issue no. 107 |
| A revised schedule for equalisation and increase in Pension Age | If made law it will affect women born 6 April 1953 and 5 April 1960 and men born 6 December 1953 and 5 April 1960 |  |