



Welfare Benefits for Over 60s

2011–12

in association with
Ferret Information Systems Ltd



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Means-tested benefits

Pension Credit (PC)

PC can be paid on its own or on top of other benefits to bring a household's income up to a minimum amount. It has two distinct parts: a 'Guarantee Credit' for those aged QAPC and over, and a 'Savings Credit' for those aged 65 and over. It is possible to receive one or the other or both and the first £10,000 of capital is ignored. If someone receives Guarantee Credit then they are also entitled to full eligible Housing and Council Tax benefits.

Guarantee Credit from QAPC (In a couple, at least one QAPC)

Minimum guarantee	single	£137.35
	couple	£209.70
Additional amounts	severe disability addition	£55.30 (per disabled person)
	carer's addition	£31.00

Savings Credit from age 65+ (In a couple, at least one 65+)

Savings credit threshold	single	£103.15
	couple	£164.55
Savings credit maximum	single	£20.52
	couple	£27.09

Capital limits

	lower	upper
Standard	£10,000	no upper limit
Care home	£10,000	no upper limit

Notional income of £1.00 a week for each £500 or part of capital exceeding the lower limit.

Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB)

CTB provides help with Council Tax costs. There is an upper capital limit of £16,000. Those with capital above this figure will not be entitled, unless they are entitled to the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit.

Personal allowances		
Single person	QAPC to 64	£137.35
	aged 65+	£157.90
Couple	at least one QAPC to 64	£209.70
	one or both aged 65+	£236.80
Additional amounts	severe disability addition	£53.30 (per eligible disabled person)
	carer's addition	£31.00
House Benefit reduction: 65% of excess income over allowances Council Tax Benefit reduction: 20% of excess income over allowances		
Maximum eligible HB/CTB paid if in receipt of Guarantee Pensions Credit		

For capital exceeding £10,000 for each £500 (or part) this is deemed as notional income of £1.00 per week which will reduce their benefit.

Capital limits – Pension Credit	Lower	Upper
Standard	£10,000	no limit
Care home (HB only)	£10,000	no limit
Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit		
Standard above QAPC	£10,000	£16,000
Care home (HB only)	£10,000	£16,000

Notional income of £1.00 a week for each £500 or part of capital exceeding £10,000.

Non means-tested benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)

Attendance Allowance is for people who become disabled when over the age of 65. AA has no mobility component and only two levels of care components: lower and higher.

lower	£49.30
higher	£73.60

Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is payable to someone who provides support to a disabled child or adult who receives either AA or DLA Care component (middle or higher rate). If someone is entitled to Carer's Allowance, they will receive an extra amount in the calculation of their Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits.

carers allowance	£55.55
adult dependant	£32.70
child dependant	£11.35*

* Special rules apply where there are dependant children.

Disability Living Allowance† (DLA)

DLA is a tax-free, non means-tested benefit for severely disabled adults and children. It is for those who need help with their personal care needs and/or have difficulty walking or getting around. DLA has two components: care and mobility. Care has three rates: lower, middle and higher. Mobility has two: lower and higher.

lower care	£19.55
middle care	£49.30
higher care	£73.60
lower mobility	£19.55
higher mobility	£51.40

† DLA cannot be claimed after age 65 but may continue to be paid if claimed earlier.

State Retirement

Retirement Pension	Cat A	£102.15
	adult dependant of Cat A pensioner	£58.80
	Cat B for a widow/widower	£102.15
	Cat B (adult dependant on spouse's NI)	£61.20
	Cat D (non-contributory)	£61.20
	age addition	£0.25

Winter Fuel Payment

Qualifying week 19 – 25 September 2011

	Aged QAPC or over	Aged 80 or over
Living alone or only eligible person	£200	Additional £100
Receiving Pension Credit	£200	Additional £100
NOT receiving Pension Credit and another eligible person in the household	£100 each	NOT receiving Pension Credit and other eligible person over 80. Additional £50
Live in care home and not receiving Pension Credit	£100	Additional £50

Important Information

This guide is directed at investment professionals only. The data was prepared in May 2011 for reference purposes. This guide is not a substitute for obtaining specific, professional advice.

Special rules apply to benefits where there are dependant children. This guide does not cover the benefits system in detail; it is designed as a quick checker for rates and possible eligibility. It does not try to explain the conditions attached to these benefits.

Rates and rules may change at any time

Qualifying Age for Pension Credit (QAPC)

Between April 2010 and April 2020, the state pension age for a woman increases gradually from 60 to 65. This age is known as the 'Qualifying Age for Pension Credit' and it determines entitlement to Pension Credit and all other means-tested entitlements which were previously available from age 60.

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