

# UNIVERSAL CREDIT CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES TABLE



The table below gives examples of changes in circumstances that would mean a claim for Universal Credit or in some cases remaining on your existing legacy benefits. This information is applicable in Full/Digital Universal Credit areas only – to check if where you live is in a Full/Digital area please visit <https://www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk/postcode-checker>

| CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES  | WHAT HAPPENS IN A LIVE/<br>GATEWAY UNIVERSAL CREDIT<br>AREA? | WHAT HAPPENS IN A<br>FULL/DIGITAL UNIVERSAL<br>CREDIT AREA?                                      |
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| <b>Change in employment status</b>   |  |  |
| On Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support or Income-related Employment Support Allowance   | Claim Working Tax Credit                                     | Claim Universal Credit   |
| On legacy benefit such as Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit and start work but not enough hours to satisfy Working Tax Credit                                 | 'Legacy benefits' adjusted                                   | Choice - remain on adjusted 'legacy benefit' or claim Universal Credit if you will be better off |
| On Working Tax Credit and hours fall below 16  | Claim Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance   | Claim Universal Credit   |
| On Income-related Employment and Support Allowance doing permitted work and work becomes permanent, hours increase over 16 or other reason for not satisfying permitted work rules | Potential Working Tax Credit Claim                           | Claim Universal Credit   |
| On Child Tax Credit only and start work to satisfy Working Tax Credit rules  | Claim Working Tax Credit                                     | Remain on Child Tax Credit and claim Working Tax Credit  |
| On Working Tax Credit and increase hours   | Stay on Working Tax Credit                                   | Choice - remain on adjusted 'legacy benefit' or claim Universal Credit if you will be better off |
| On Working Tax Credit and become sick  | Claim Income-related Employment and Support Allowance        | Claim Universal Credit   |
| <b>Change in family circumstances</b>  |  |  |
| On Income Support, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Housing Benefit and household becomes responsible for a first child      | Claim Child Tax Credit                                       | Claim Universal Credit   |

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| On Working Tax Credit only and household becomes responsible for a first child                                     | Remain on Tax Credit and claim Child Tax Credit   | Choice - remain on adjusted 'legacy benefit' or claim Universal Credit if you will be better off |
| Lone parent on Income Support and youngest child turns 5 years old   | Unless there is another reason to stay on Income Support, claim Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance                                    | Unless there is another reason to stay on Income Support, claim Universal Credit                 |
| On Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and baby due within 11 weeks   | Claim Income Support  | Claim Universal Credit   |
| <b>Partner leaving/joining household. If it means a new claim to a legacy benefit, claim Universal Credit.</b>     |   |  |
| Couple on Tax Credits separate   | Make separate claim for 'legacy benefits'   | Both claim Universal Credit as single people   |
| Lone parent on Income Support and Child Tax Credit becomes a couple  | Claim Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance and make new Tax Credit claim as a couple | Claim Universal Credit as a couple   |
| Couple on Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance with child under 5 become lone parents                                | Claim Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance  | Both claim Universal Credit as single people   |
| Single person under pension age on 'legacy benefits' becomes a couple with person of Pension Credit qualifying age | Claim Pension Credit until Universal Credit is fully rolled out across the country  | Claim Universal Credit when fully rolled out   |
| <b>Carers</b>  |   |  |
| Satisfies Carer's Allowance rules which means a new 'legacy benefit' claim   | Claim the relevant 'legacy benefits'  | Claim Universal Credit   |
| Carer on Income Support stops being a carer  | Unless there is a reason to stay on Income Support, claim Jobseeker's Allowance   | Claim Universal Credit   |
| <b>Tax Credits</b>   |   |  |
| Tax Credit renewal   | Remain on Tax Credit  | Choice - remain on adjusted 'legacy benefit' or claim Universal Credit if you will be better off |
| On Tax Credit and change does not lead to a claim for a new 'legacy benefit' for example less income               | Remain on Tax Credit  | Choice - remain on adjusted 'legacy benefit' or claim Universal Credit if you will be better off |
| <b>Sickness</b>  |   |  |

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| On Income-related Employment Support Allowance and fails Work Capability Assessment  | Claim Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance  | Claim Universal Credit. If you challenge Work Capability Assessment and win, remain on Universal Credit |
| On Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and become sick  | Claim Income-related Employment and Support Allowance                                       | Claim Universal Credit  |
| <b>Moving area and taking up a tenancy</b>   |   |   |
| Housing Benefit claimant moves into Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk area from a different local authority  | New claim for Housing Benefit   | Claim Universal Credit  |
| Housing Benefit claimant moves property within Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk area (remains within the same local authority)  | Remain on Housing Benefit   | Choice - remain on adjusted 'legacy benefit' or claim Universal Credit if you will be better off        |
| On Tax Credit, Income Support, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and take up a new tenancy for the first time                                      | Claim Housing Benefit   | Claim Universal Credit  |
| <b>Other</b>   |   |   |
| On Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and attends court or jury service  | Claim Income Support  | Claim Universal Credit  |
| On Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and remanded in custody  | Claim Income Support  | Claim Universal Credit  |
| On Income Support and cease full time education  | Claim Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance  | Claim Universal Credit  |
| Income and/or capital goes over different threshold  | Claim 'legacy benefit' (depending on income/capital rules)                                  | Claim Universal Credit (depending on income/capital rules)  |
| On Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance and believed to be entitled to Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance | Claim Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance | Claim Universal Credit (treated as a new claim)   |