



Welfare Reform Act 2012

2012 CHAPTER 5

PART 1

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

CHAPTER 1

ENTITLEMENT AND AWARDS

Introductory

1 Universal credit

- (1) A benefit known as universal credit is payable in accordance with this Part.
- (2) Universal credit may, subject as follows, be awarded to—
 - (a) an individual who is not a member of a couple (a “single person”), or
 - (b) members of a couple jointly.
- (3) An award of universal credit is, subject as follows, calculated by reference to—
 - (a) a standard allowance,
 - (b) an amount for responsibility for children or young persons,
 - (c) an amount for housing, and
 - (d) amounts for other particular needs or circumstances.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 1 modified by 1995 c. 18, Sch. 1 para. 2(3) (as inserted (29.4.2013) by [The Universal Credit \(Consequential, Supplementary, Incidental and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/630\)](#), regs. 1(2), **10(b)**)
- C2** Act modified (24.7.2020) by [The Universal Credit \(Northern Ireland Reciprocal Arrangements\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/677\)](#), regs. 1, 2, **Sch.**

Changes to legislation: Welfare Reform Act 2012, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- C3** S. 1(2)(a) applied by S.I. 2003/2382, reg. 2 (as amended (E.) (29.4.2013) by [The National Health Service \(Charges for Drugs and Appliances\), \(Dental Charges\) and \(Travel Expenses and Remission of Charges\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/475\)](#), regs. 1(2)(a), **17(7)**)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 1 in force at 29.4.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/983, art. 3\(2\)-\(6\), Sch. 1, Sch. 2](#) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by [S.I. 2013/1511](#); (29.10.2013) by [S.I. 2013/2657](#); (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (15.9.2014) by [S.I. 2014/2321](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (21.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3094](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#) (as amended (10.2.2015) by [S.I. 2015/101](#)); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.11.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1930](#); (6.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/483](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (16.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/10](#); and (31.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/167](#))
- I2** S. 1 in force at 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/1511, art. 3, Sch.](#) (as amended or modified: (29.10.2013) by [S.I. 2013/2657](#); (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); and (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#))
- I3** S. 1 in force at 28.10.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/2657, art. 3, Sch.](#) (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); and (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#))
- I4** S. 1 in force at 25.11.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/2846, art. 3, Sch.](#) (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); and (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#))
- I5** S. 1 in force at 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/209, art. 3, Sch.](#) (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1452](#); (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); and (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#))
- I6** S. 1 in force at 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/1583, art. 3, Sch.](#) (as amended or modified: (30.6.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1661](#); (28.7.2014) by [S.I. 2014/1923](#); (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3067](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); and (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#))
- I7** S. 1 in force at 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/2321, art. 3, Sch.](#) (as amended or modified: (17.11.2014) by [S.I. 2014/3057](#); (19.1.2015) by [S.I. 2015/32](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (29.9.2016) by [S.I. 2016/963](#); (24.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/584](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); and (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#))
- I8** S. 1 in force at 26.11.2014 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2014/3094, art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#))
- I9** S. 1 in force at 28.1.2015 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/33, art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#)) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by [S.I. 2015/101](#); (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/634](#); (6.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/483](#); (11.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (16.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/10](#); (15.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/37](#); and (31.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/167](#))
- I10** S. 1 in force at 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/101, art. 3](#) (with [art. 2\(2\)-\(4\)](#)) (as amended or modified: (10.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/534](#); (17.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/740](#); (20.7.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1537](#); (14.1.2016) by [S.I. 2016/33](#); (21.3.2016) by [S.I. 2016/407](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (29.9.2016) by [S.I. 2016/963](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); (24.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/584](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); and (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#))

Changes to legislation: Welfare Reform Act 2012, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- I11** S. 1 in force at 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/634](#), **art. 3** (with [arts. 5, 7](#)) (as amended or modified: (17.3.2015) by [S.I. 2015/740](#); (21.3.2016) by [S.I. 2016/407](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (29.9.2016) by [S.I. 2016/963](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); (6.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/376](#); (24.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/584](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#); (16.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/10](#); (15.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/37](#); and (31.1.2019) by [S.I. 2019/167](#))
- I12** S. 1 in force at 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/1537](#), **art. 3** (as amended or modified: (23.11.2015) by [S.I. 2015/1930](#); (14.1.2016) by [S.I. 2016/33](#); (21.3.2016) by [S.I. 2016/407](#); (23.5.2016) by [S.I. 2016/596](#); (29.9.2016) by [S.I. 2016/963](#); (25.1.2017) by [S.I. 2017/57](#); (24.4.2017) by [S.I. 2017/584](#); (19.5.2017) by [S.I. 2017/664](#); (28.9.2017) by [S.I. 2017/952](#); (2.2.2018) by [S.I. 2018/138](#); (26.4.2018) by [S.I. 2018/532](#); and (19.7.2018) by [S.I. 2018/881](#))
- I13** S. 1 in force at 2.12.2015 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/1930](#), **art. 3** (with [art. 7](#))
- I14** S. 1 in force at 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2016/33](#), **art. 3**, **Sch.** (with [art. 7](#))
- I15** S. 1 in force at 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2016/407](#), **art. 3**, **Sch.**
- I16** S. 1 in force at 1.2.2019 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2019/167](#), **art. 4(1)-(3)** (with [art. 4\(4\)\(11\)](#))
- I17** S. 1 in force at 30.3.2022 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2022/302](#), **art. 3** (with [arts. 4, 5](#), **Sch.**)

Changes to legislation:

Welfare Reform Act 2012, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/1511 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 51314Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/2657 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 4-6Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/2657 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 1315Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/2846 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 347Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983 by [S.I. 2018/138 art. 3](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983 by [S.I. 2019/10 reg. 3\(1\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983 by [S.I. 2019/167 art. 5\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2013/983, art. 5A(1), 6(1) by [S.I. 2017/483 art. 2](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/1583 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 5Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/209 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 348Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/209 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 1016Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 59Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 37813Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2017/584 art. 5Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 5Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 3-510Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 46-1214Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 3-9111217Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2017/584 art. 346-9Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 3-57-9Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2016/596 art. 3411Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 3-1215Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2017/57 art. 3-7912Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2017/584 art. 346-9Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2017/664 art. 3-9Sch.](#)

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2018/138 art. 6](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2019/10 reg. 3\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2019/167 art. 5\(3\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33 by [S.I. 2019/37 art. 5](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/33, art. 6(11) by [S.I. 2017/483 art. 3](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2018/138 art. 6](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2019/10 reg. 3\(3\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2019/167 art. 5\(4\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2019/37 art. 5](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634, art. 7(2) by [S.I. 2017/376 reg. 4](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2016/596 by [S.I. 2016/963 art. 17](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2019/37 by [S.I. 2019/935 art. 2](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2014/1583 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2014/2321 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2015/101 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2015/1537 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 3Sch.](#)
- specified provision(s) modification of earlier commencing S.I. 2015/634 by [S.I. 2018/532 art. 5](#)