

Employment And Support Allowance

Jobcentre Plus
Burnley Benefit Centre
Brun House
Pittman Way
Preston
PR11 2AL

Our phone number is

Code 0845 Number 608 8531

Textphone users with speech or hearing difficulties call

Code 0845 Number 608 8551

If you get in touch with us, tell us this reference number

Date

18 / 08 / 2012

The benefit you receive is changing

We recently wrote to you to explain that we are phasing out certain benefits including Incapacity Benefit, Income Support (on the grounds of illness or disability) and Severe Disability Allowance. If you currently receive one of these benefits, we will need to assess whether it qualifies for conversion to Employment and Support Allowance.

We have also phoned you or tried to phone you to explain the changes.

If you currently receive Incapacity Benefit, Income Support (on the grounds of illness or disability) or Severe Disablement Allowance, your current award of benefit will be converted to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) only if certain conditions are satisfied. The conditions which you must satisfy are found in sections 1(a)-(d) and (f) of the Welfare Reform Act 2007, namely that:

- a) you have limited capability for work
- b) you are at least 16 years old
- c) you have not reached pensionable age
- d) you are in Great Britain, and
- f) you are not entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance.

If these conditions are not satisfied your existing benefit will not be converted to ESA and will stop. Other benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, may be available to you instead depending on your circumstances.

What you need to do

We have also advised you that you will be sent a questionnaire to complete with details of your illness or disability.

You must complete and return the questionnaire as soon as possible to help us reassess whether you have limited capability for work. It is important that you provide

The benefit you receive is changing continued

full details of your illness or disability on the form. After we have received your questionnaire we will contact you and tell you what you need to do next.

If you need further advice on how to complete the questionnaire you can contact Jobcentre Plus, or your local welfare rights service such as Citizens Advice Bureau.

Keeping in touch with you

We will keep in touch with you to let you know what is happening. If you have any concerns about these changes please tell us when we speak to you.

Where can I get further information?

You can get information from our website www.direct.gov.uk/benefits

You can also get further advice from Jobcentre Plus or alternatively your local welfare rights service, such as Citizens Advice Bureau. Should you require special arrangements such as Braille, large text, audio or information in other languages, please tell us when we call you.