

If you contact us, use this reference:

jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

Office stamp

www.gov.uk

Telephone:

Textphone:

Date:

Employment and Support Allowance

How your Employment and Support Allowance was worked out

You asked for a full explanation of how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance. This letter tells you about this and also gives some general information about Employment and Support Allowance.

If you want to ask us anything about this letter, please get in touch with us. Our phone number and address are at the top of this letter.

How we worked out your claim

We looked at the information you gave us to work out

- your entitlement based on your National Insurance contributions. We call this contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance, and
- the money you can get based on how much the law says you need to live on. We call this income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

How this letter is set out

- Part 1** shows how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance.
 Column A shows contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance
 Column B shows income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Part 2** tells you more about how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance.
- Part 3** tells you about the money we take off your Employment and Support Allowance.

Please keep this letter for your information.

How your Employment and Support Allowance was worked out Continued

Part 1 How we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance

Name _____

Reference number _____

Column A **Column B**

1a	Employment and Support Allowance based on your National Insurance contributions in the tax years from 6 April [] to 5 April []		
1b	Employment and Support Allowance for you and your partner, if you have one, based on the amount the law says you need to live on.		
2	Dependent children or qualifying young persons you have (for information only) Name _____ Age _____		
3	Employment and Support Allowance rate after 13 weeks. You will be placed into either the Work Related Activity Group or the Support Group.		
3a	Top-up payment		
4	Extra money because you or your partner are a carer.		
5	Extra money because of special circumstances.		
6	Extra money for looking after you at home.		
7	Help with housing costs for where you live, if you have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a mortgage, including home improvement loans • ground rent or service charges, or • other housing costs. The maximum amount the law says we can pay you is		
8	We take off money from your contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance, because you get <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits • pensions, or • earnings. 		
9	We take off money from your income-related Employment and Support Allowance, because you get <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits • pensions • earnings • maintenance paid direct to you or your partner, or • other income. 		
10	We take off money if you have savings over a certain limit.		
11	Total for columns A and B.		
12	You are entitled to the highest total amount from column A or B. This amount is		
13	Money taken off your allowance For Amount £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ Arrears £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ Total £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ £ _____ £ _____		
From / / , the weekly amount of Employment and Support Allowance you will get is			

How your Employment and Support Allowance was worked out Continued

Part 2 More about how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance

These notes tell you how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance in Part 1.

Allowances

These are to help with the cost of your normal needs.

- 1a This amount is your Employment and Support Allowance based on your National Insurance contributions. You will only get this if you have enough contributions in the 2 tax years shown.

Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance can be paid for a maximum of 365 days unless you are in the Support Group.

- 1b This amount is your Employment and Support Allowance based on how much the law says you need to live on. This includes an amount for your partner, if you have one. If you are getting interim payments, this is the amount we can pay you.

We use 'partner' to mean

- a person you are married to or a person you live with as if you are married to them, or
- a civil partner or a person you live with as if you are civil partners.

- 2 Employment and Support Allowance does not provide an allowance for dependent children or qualifying young persons.

- We use 'child' to mean a person aged under 16 who you are getting Child Benefit for.
- We use 'qualifying young person' to mean a person aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 who you are getting Child Benefit for.

If you are not getting Child Tax Credit for the dependent children or qualifying young persons you get Child Benefit for, contact HM Revenue & Customs.

- 3 We will pay you this amount after 13 weeks, when you have been placed in either the Work Related Activity Group or the Support Group.

We may be able to pay you this amount before the end of the 13 weeks, if you qualify under special rules and are placed into the Support Group.

- 3a Included in your Employment and Support Allowance is a top-up payment which ensures you won't see a reduction in the level of your benefit entitlement as a result of the change to Employment and Support Allowance. The amount of Employment and Support Allowance you get may not change when benefit rates are increased every year.

Premiums

We pay you these amounts if you get income-related Employment and Support Allowance. They are for your extra needs.

- 4 Carer Premium is paid if you or your partner get Carer's Allowance. Carer's Allowance is a benefit to help people who look after someone who gets
- Attendance Allowance
 - Constant Attendance Allowance, or
 - Disability Living Allowance.
 - Personal Independence Payment

This premium can be paid for you and your partner if you are both carers. You can get more information about Carer's Allowance in DS700 Carer's Allowance claim pack. You can get DS700 from Jobcentre Plus.

How your Employment and Support Allowance was worked out Continued

Part 2 More about how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance continued

- 5 We may pay you other premiums under special circumstances. These are
- Enhanced Disability Premium if you get
 - the Disability Living Allowance care component at the highest rate, or
 - the Personal Independence Payment Daily Living component at the enhanced rate, or
 - extra money to support you while you are getting Employment and Support Allowance, and
 - Pensioner Premium if your partner has reached the minimum age for getting Pension Credit. The minimum age you can get Pension Credit is rising, linked to the changes to women’s State Pension age. For more information visit www.gov.uk/calculate-state-pension
- 6 We pay you Severe Disability Premium if you live alone and get the Disability Living Allowance care component at the middle or highest rate or the Personal Independence Payment Daily Living component at the standard or enhanced rate. We can also pay it if both you and your partner get Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.
- You will not get this premium if someone who looks after you or your partner gets Carer’s Allowance.

Housing costs

- 7 We pay you this amount to help you pay for where you live. This could be for housing costs like
- a mortgage
 - a home loan
 - service charges
 - ground rent, and
 - other housing costs.

If you or your partner have reached the qualifying age for Pension Credit, we will pay the eligible interest on the mortgage or home loan from the start of your claim.

If you and your partner are under the qualifying age for Pension Credit, the amount of mortgage interest we pay, depends on the date you made your claim to benefit and the date you took out your mortgage.

We usually make payments direct to your lender, and we use a standard interest rate to work out how much to pay.

We can only help with the interest on the mortgage or home loan. We cannot help to repay the capital on the mortgage or home loan.

You can get help with your mortgage or home loan for an extra 4 weeks if income-related Employment and Support Allowance stops because you start full time work. We call this help ‘mortgage interest run on’.

How your Employment and Support Allowance was worked out Continued

You may be able to get the mortgage interest run on if you or your partner have

- started full time work that you expect to last for 5 weeks or more, and
- been getting income-related Employment and Support Allowance for at least 26 weeks or more in a row, and
- been getting income-related Employment and Support Allowance for 26 weeks or more before starting work, or
- been getting help with a mortgage or home loan that you still have to pay when you start work.

By 'full time work' we mean 16 hours or more a week for you or 24 hours or more a week for your partner.

Part 2 More about how we worked out your Employment and Support Allowance continued

Remember you do not get help with rent from Employment and Support Allowance. You get help with your rent from your local council. This is called Housing Benefit. If you want to know more about Housing Benefit, get in touch with your local council.

Part 3 The money we take off your Employment and Support Allowance

Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance

- 8 We take off this amount because you have money coming in. This includes
- some other social security benefits
 - any occupational, public service or personal pensions.
We do not count
 - the first £85, and
 - half of any amount over the £85
 - earnings – see Permitted work and Earnings disregard sections below for details.

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

- 9 We take off this amount because you or your partner have money coming in. This includes
- most other social security benefits
 - any occupational, public service or personal pensions
 - earnings – see Permitted work and Earnings disregard sections below for details, and
 - maintenance payments.

How your Employment and Support Allowance was worked out Continued

Permitted work

If you tell us that you are or will be working while you get Employment and Support Allowance, we will decide if this is allowed within the rules of Employment and Support Allowance. This is called 'permitted work'.

If we decide this is permitted work, there are earnings limits and disregards that apply to your claim. These limits and disregards will also apply if your partner is working. If you need an explanation of how your earnings affect your claim, please contact us. Our address and phone number are at the top of this form.

Earnings disregard

If you are not working, but your partner is working less than 24 hours a week, we do not count the first £20 of their earnings.

Part 3 The money we take off your Employment and Support Allowance

Savings

10 We count this amount as money coming in if you have savings over £6,000. We take off £1 a week from your income-related Employment and Support Allowance for every £250 over £6,000.

If you live in a care home on a permanent basis, savings of less than £10,000 are not counted. We will take off £1 a week from your income-related Employment and Support Allowance for every £250 over £10,000.

If your savings are more than £16,000 you will not get income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

If you have a partner, their savings are counted with your savings.

Savings do not affect contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.

Your entitlement

11 If you receive contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance, we pay you the amount in column A.

If you receive contribution-based and income-related Employment and Support Allowance, we will pay you the highest total amount from either column A or B.

12 This is how much Employment and Support Allowance you are entitled to each week.

13 We will take off these amounts from your allowance to pay for things like fuel, water and housing costs. We will tell you before we do this.

Please keep this letter for your information.

