



# Benefits for people in the UK



EasyRead version

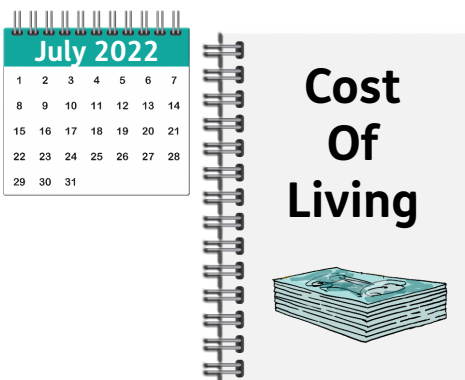


The **Department for Work and Pensions** is a big government body. It is sometimes called the **DWP** or **the Department**.



The **DWP** pays money to people who are looking for work, or cannot work because they are not well, have a disability, or are looking after somebody else.

This money is called a **benefit**.



In July 2022 we wrote a report called the **Cost of Living**.

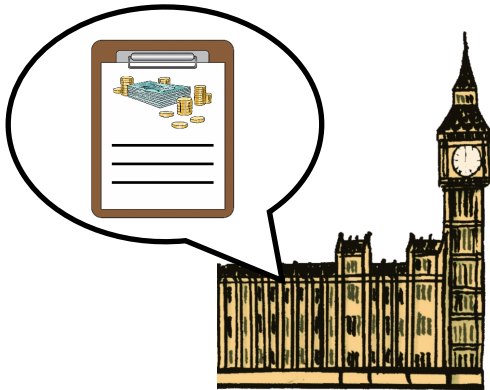


In the report we made some **recommendations** to the Government.

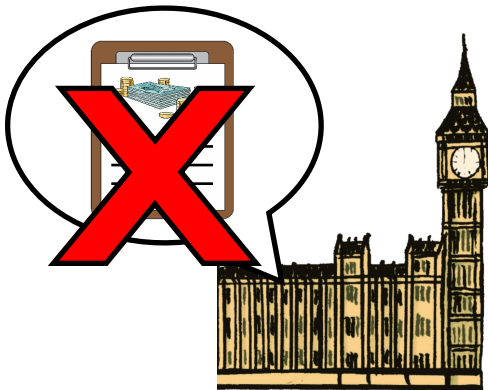
**Recommendations** are suggestions.



We said they should look at how much money they gave people on benefits to see if it was enough.



We said they should tell people about what they found out.



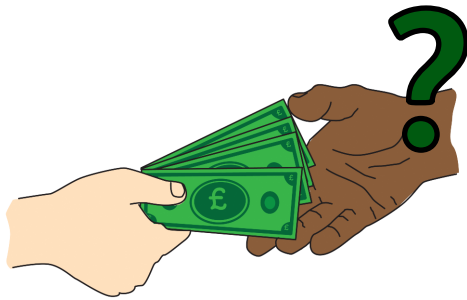
The Government said it could not do this.



The Government said they could not work out if benefits were enough, because everyone who gets benefits is different.



This report is about how we think the Government could work out what benefits should be.



It is about how much people under 67 years are paid and if it meets their needs.



We have found **evidence** that benefits are too low.

**Evidence** is information that explains why something is true.

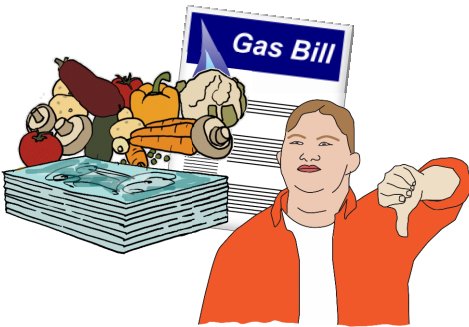


Some people on benefits cannot pay for:

- day-to-day living costs



- extra support and help they may need because of their health or disability.

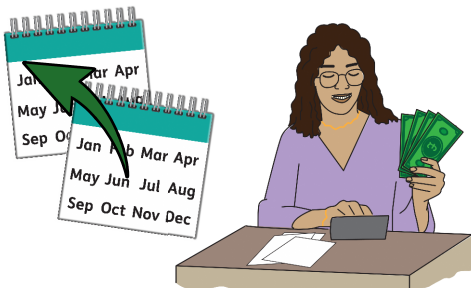


Things have got worse because of the cost of living crisis.

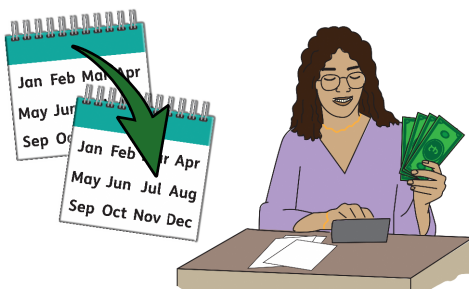


We looked at:

- why benefits are paid



- how it was decided how much to pay in the past



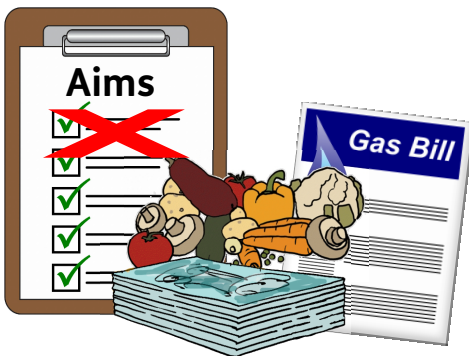
- how to decide how much to pay in the future.



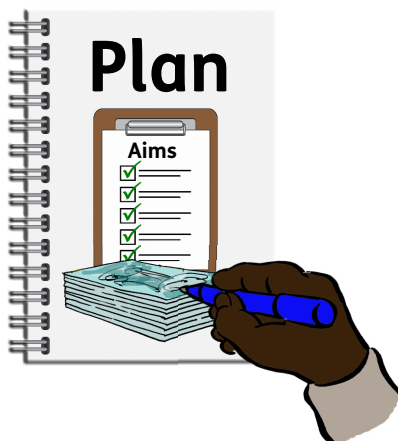
The Government does not have goals for how benefits should help someone.



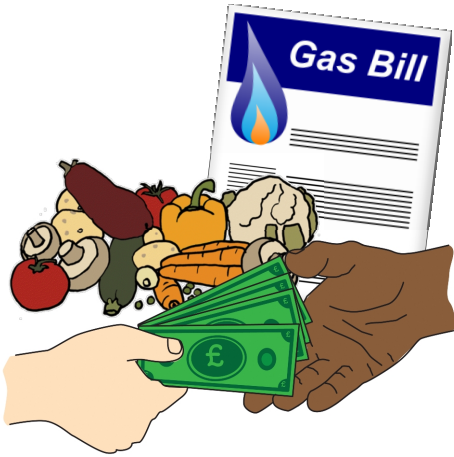
The Government's aim for benefits is that it should help people want to find a job.



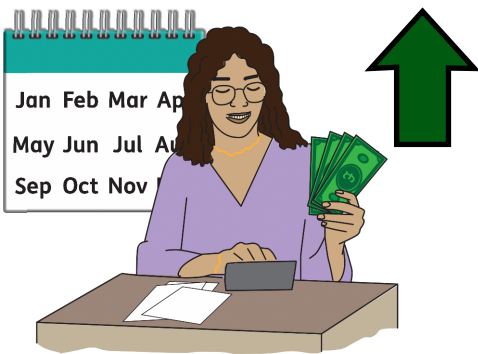
There is no aim for how benefits can help people with day-to-day living costs.



We think the Government should write a plan about the aims of benefits.



The aims should be linked to whether the amount of money people get in benefits is enough for their day-to-day living costs.



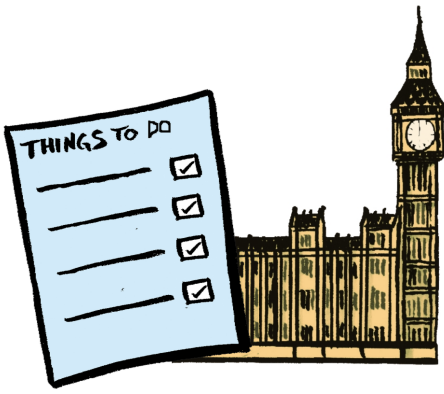
We think the Government should change the way it increases benefits each year.



It should promise to increase benefits linked to the same thing each year.



We think the Government should increase the Local Housing Allowance rate each year.



Other Government decisions can also affect benefits.



In this report we share work we have done before.



We look at the Government's proposed changes to employment support and who can get benefits.



We think the Department for Work and Pension should say how many Work Coaches and Disability Employment Advisers there are.

# Credits

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