

Money Management – Benefits for veterans of pension age

This is a short general guidance only, please seek advice from Citizens Advice or a service charity for more detailed information.

The benefits system is different for people over the state retirement age. Default state retirement age no longer exists and you can check when you can start claiming your state pension on the [online calculator](#).

State Retirement Pension – is a taxable benefit which depends on the amount of national insurance contributions/credits. You must make a claim in order to receive it. You can delay claiming it, i.e. defer it and receive increased amount when you claim. You can work and claim SRP and other income such as military pensions and savings do not affect it. The current “new” full state pension is £175.20 per week if you have full NI contributions and did not opt out of the second state pension. If you claimed your SRP earlier, the amount could be lower or higher. You can make a claim over the phone by ringing 0800 731 7898, by completing a paper form or online.

Pension Credit – is a means-tested non-taxable benefit for people over pension age, calculated weekly, currently £173.75 for a single person and £265.20 for a couple. If your income is below this amount, the PC tops it up to this level. The income taken into account includes earnings, state and work pensions (including military pensions), war disablement* and war widow(er)'s pension*, GIP* and Survivor's GIP*, “deemed income” from capital over £10,000 and other payments. (*) £10 of the total of any income from these payments is disregarded. Payments which are fully disregarded when calculating PC include disability benefits such as Armed Forces Independence Payment, constant attendance allowance, war pensioner's mobility supplement, exceptionally severe disablement allowance (paid in War Pensions) and war pensions' severe disablement occupational allowance, war widow(er)'s supplementary pension and actual income from capital. Your PC can also include additional elements such as the carer and severe disability elements. If you have dependent children, child element and disabled child element could also be paid with your PC. Pension Service administrates this benefit and they can be contacted on 0800 991 234.

Help with mortgage – you can receive assistance with your mortgage interest payments through PC in a form of a secured loan, repayable on the sale of the property or following the death of the mortgage holder. Seek advice before applying for help with the mortgage interest.

Housing Benefit – is a means-tested benefit which could be claimed if you live in a rented property administered by your local council. The amount would depend on your income and savings, the composition of your household and the rent you must pay. If you qualify for Pension Credit, you become entitled to full HB. Please note that full HB may not still cover your rent in full if you live in a privately rented property or if there is another person living with you who is not your spouse/partner or a dependent child, i.e. “non-dependant”. The contact phone number for Telford council is 01952 383838 and

you can claim it online at:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20283/housing_benefit/95/housing_benefit/3

Council Tax Benefit – is a means-tested benefit to assist you with the costs of your council tax which is administered by your local council.

Attendance Allowance – is a tax-free, non-contributory and non-means tested disability benefit available to disabled people over pension age who have long-term personal care needs either during the daytime, during the night or both. You cannot claim it if you receive the Armed Forces Independence payment or Personal Independence payment or Disability Living Allowance. Claim it by requesting the AA1 form from the Attendance Allowance Helpline on 0800 731 0122 or download the form online at www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance/how-to-claim.