

NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE AND BENEFIT INCREASES

1. NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES

2. ANNUAL BENEFIT UPDATING

1. INCREASES TO NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

The 1st April 2020 brought annual increases to the National Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage. Please see below for new rates:

Year	25 and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2019 (current rate)	£8.21	£7.70	£6.15	£4.35	£3.90
April 2020	£8.72	£8.20	£6.45	£4.55	£4.15

2. BENEFITS UPDATING

Following a 4 year freeze, Benefits and Tax Credits linked to inflation also rose by 1.7% from 1st April 2020. The triple lock will also deliver a 3.9% increase to the New State Pension (£175.20 in 2020/21) and the Basic State Pension (£134.25).

The Government also announced on 20 March 2020, in response to the (COVID-19) outbreak, that it would be increasing the Universal Credit standard allowance and the Working Tax Credit basic element by £20 a week for the next 12 months. This will apply from 06/04/20 in addition to the planned annual updating of benefits.

New benefit rates for 2020/2021 are now available to view at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-and-pension-rates-2020-to-2021>

Scottish Social Security

There have been additional payments announced by the Scottish Social Security Agency for Carers – please see bulletin 2 for further information.

**If you have any further questions about any of the above topics,
or if you require Housing Advice or Information**

**Email advice@ayrhousingaidcentre.com or call, text or whatsapp us on 07549 603895 /
07760750256 or contact us via facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ayrhac>**