



Return To Work Credit

The Return To Work Credit is a tax free payment of £40 per week. It is paid directly to you on top of your wages for 52 weeks, if you work for 16 hours or more a week and earn less than £15,000 per year.

You must have been claiming one of the qualifying benefits listed below for 13 weeks or more.

How it works

To help you back to work, the Department for Employment and Learning can provide you with an additional £40 per week for up to 52 weeks.

Who can apply?

You must be starting work or have started work in the past five weeks and have been claiming one of the qualifying benefits for 13 weeks or more. These are:

- Employment Support Allowance;
- Incapacity Benefit (including credits only);
- Income Support (because of your incapacity);
- Severe Disablement Allowance; or
- Statutory Sick Pay for 13 weeks or more and are now claiming an Incapacity Benefit.

Or, if you are a lone parent with a dependant child under 7 years old and have been claiming one of the following benefits for 13 weeks or more:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance

You must: work 16 hours per week or more; earn less than £15,000 per year; and expect your job to last more than five weeks.

How do I apply?

Contact your local Jobs & Benefits office or JobCentre. You will be directed to an Adviser who will be able to check that you are eligible and help you to make an application.

Frequently asked questions

How will I get the Return to Work Credit?

You can receive Return to Work Credit from the date you start work or become self employed.

You must apply within five weeks from the date you start work. Your entitlement to Return to Work Credit will be reviewed after 26 weeks.

You will be paid the credit each week directly into your bank or building society account.

What if I stop working while I'm claiming Return to Work Credit?

If you stop working while you are receiving the Return to Work Credit, you must let your local Jobs & Benefits office/JobCentre know immediately. The entitlement to the credit stops when you stop work and/or make a claim for benefit.

If you find new employment within 13 weeks of finishing your last job you may still be able to claim Return to Work Credit for the unused balance of time, provided you are working 16 hours and earning less than £15,000 per year.

What if I change jobs while I'm claiming Return to Work Credit?

You can continue to claim Return to Work Credit for up to 52 weeks in total if you change employer and:

- You are working 16 hours or more per week;
- your annual salary is less than £15,000;
- you do not claim benefit between jobs; and
- any break between jobs lasts less than five weeks.

What happens next?



Contact your local Jobs & Benefits office/JobCentre and staff will confirm if you are eligible for the Return to Work Credit.

Alternatively, telephone **FREEPHONE 0800 353530** or visit **www.delni.gov.uk/pathways-return-to-work-credit** for further information.

Benefits



As well as receiving an extra tax free £40 per week on top of your wages, claiming Return to Work Credit will not be taken into account in assessment of Working Tax Credit (WTC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), Housing Benefit (HB), Carer's Allowance (CA) nor will it affect the amount you pay for income tax or National Insurance contributions for National Insurance purposes.