



## **Benefit pay days and pay periods: changes in April**

From 6 April, the date on which benefits are paid and the period for which they are paid are changing for new claimants. Claims made before this date will be converted over to the new arrangements in the two years from 6 April 2009 to 31 March 2011. People who are affected by the changes will be paid benefit fortnightly in arrears, on a day that depends on the last two digits of their national insurance number. For example, if the last two digits in their national insurance number are from 00 to 19, they will be paid on Mondays.

The changes affect jobseeker's allowance, income support, bereavement allowance, widow's pension, widowed parent's allowance, widowed mother's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, and maternity allowance.

A person who is moving from advance payments to payments in arrears will be entitled to a non-recoverable compensation payment equal to a week's benefit. A person who is moving from weekly payments in arrears to fortnightly payments in arrears will not be entitled to this. Instead, Jobcentre Plus will offer a recoverable payment in the form of a loan equal to a week's benefit.