

Light Touch regime

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One of the key elements of Universal Credit provides DWP with the opportunity to support people who are in work to increase their earnings and progress their careers.

DWP continues to build an evidence base to understand how best to support people to reach their potential, to progress in work and be more productive.

Features

Light Touch regime is for claimants with individual or household earnings above the Administrative Earnings Threshold (AET) but not above the individual or household Conditionality Earnings Threshold (CET). A claimant's gross earnings will be used when assessing whether earnings are equal to or above AET or CET.

This includes:

- a single claimant with earnings below their individual CET but equal to or above the AET for a single person
- a claimant with earnings below the individual AET but in a household with earnings above the household AET
- a claimant with no earnings and in a household with earnings above the household AET
- a claimant who is the lead carer and whose youngest child/children is aged 3, earning below the CET but equal to, or above the AET

Claimants can enter the Light Touch regime at new claim stage or following a change in circumstance.

Claimants will always be in the regime with the lowest conditionality. See Labour market regimes.

Support in the Light Touch regime

Within the Light Touch regime, there may be some claimants who pro-actively seek support from DWP to increase their earnings. In these cases support can be provided.

The support provided will depend on what would best address the individual request and the claimant's specific needs. Any activities agreed with the claimant are voluntary and failure to complete the activities will not lead to a sanction.

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