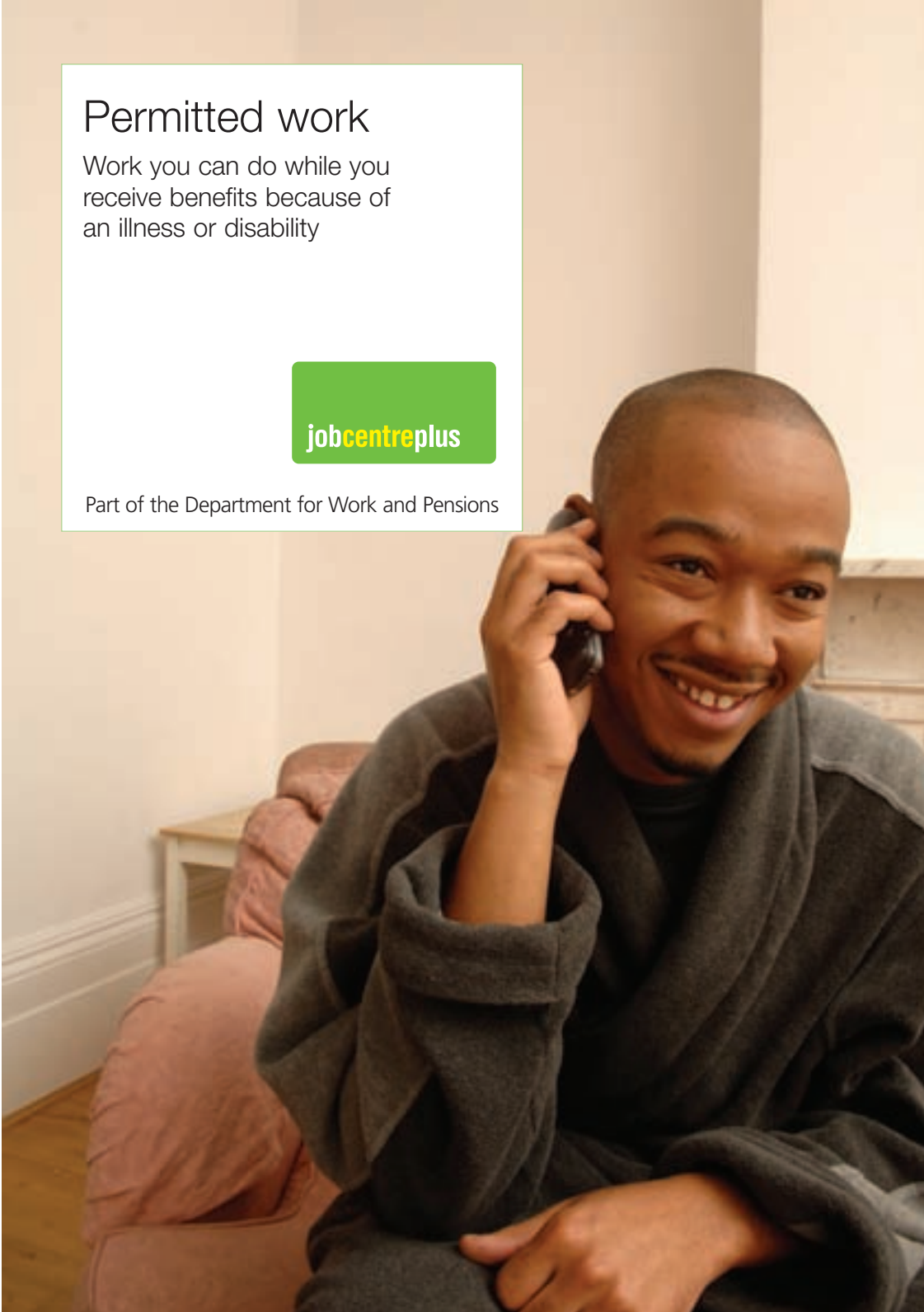


# Permitted work

Work you can do while you receive benefits because of an illness or disability

**jobcentreplus**

Part of the Department for Work and Pensions





## What is 'permitted work'?

Permitted work is work you can do if you receive one or more of the following because of an illness or disability.

- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- National Insurance credits

If you are getting another benefit because you are not fit for work, for example:

- Income Support
- Housing Benefit, or
- Council Tax Benefit

your benefit may be reduced or stop if you do any sort of work. Please talk to an adviser before starting work.

## How much can I earn?

There are 4 types of permitted work if you are getting Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or National Insurance credits:

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- 1** You can earn up to £20 a week, for as long as you get one or more of the benefits listed above. This will not affect your benefits.
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### **If you are getting Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit:**

- 2** You can work less than 16 hours a week and earn no more than £92.00 a week, for up to 52 weeks.

At the end of 52 weeks if you cannot start employment of 16 hours or more a week you must wait another 52 weeks before you apply for this type of permitted work again. While you wait, you can still work, but you must not earn more than £20 a week.

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- 3** You can work as many hours as you like, as long as you earn no more than £92.00 a week, if you are supervised by someone who is employed by a public or local authority, or a voluntary group, and
  - it is their job to arrange work for sick and disabled people
  - they give you regular help for you to do your job, or as part of a hospital treatment programme, and

- the work is part of a treatment programme and done under medical supervision, either as an in-patient or an out-patient of a hospital or similar institution.

For example, you might be working in the community, in a sheltered workshop, or as part of a hospital treatment programme.

You should be paid at least the National Minimum Wage for any work that you do.

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- 4 Some people with serious medical conditions do not need to have a medical examination to be assessed as not being able to work. If this applies to you, you can choose how long you work for, but it must be less than 16 hours a week and you cannot earn more than £92.00.

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### **How permitted work affects your other benefits**

If you are earning more than £20 a week from permitted work it could affect the amount of Income Support, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit you get.

If you get Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, you must contact your local council before starting any permitted work.

## **What must I do if I want to do permitted work?**

If you are thinking of doing any work, whether paid or unpaid, you must always check with us that the work you want to do fits into the rules for permitted work. If you do work that does not fit into the rules for permitted work you could lose your benefit.

We may also need to adjust your Income Support.

If you can't tell us before you start work, you must call or write to us as soon as you can.

## **How do I find out more?**

You can find out more about permitted work by:

- visiting [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk), or
- contacting Jobcentre Plus (our address and number is in your phone book).

## **Important information about this leaflet**

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of October 2008.

It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

Jobcentre Plus is committed to applying the principles of equal opportunities in its programmes and services.

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