

# Current Bereavement Benefits Vs Bereavement Support Payment

	Current Bereavement Benefits	Bereavement Support Payment
Components	Bereavement Payment (BP) Bereavement Allowance (BA) Widowed Parent's Allowance (WPA)	Bereavement Support Payment (BSP)
Payment Period	BP – one off lump sum BA - 52 weeks WPA – Until child benefit ceases.	Up to 19 payments with the initial payment at a higher rate if the claim is made within 12 months of death.
Rate of payment	BP - Lump sum £2000 Bereavement Benefit - average weekly benefit - £108.89 Widows Benefit - average weekly benefit - £81.29	£3500 initial payment + £350 per month for up to 18 months for those with dependant children £2500 initial payment + £100 per month for up to 18 months for those without children
Widowed Parents	Widowed Parents Allowance ceases once CHB award ceases	No change of rate if child is no longer included in CHB award.
Have to be Married/in Civil Partnership	Yes	Yes
Age Requirements	BA – no entitlement if under age 45 and age related payment from 45 to State Pension Age (SpA) WPA – No entitlement once claimant reaches SpA BP - No entitlement if claimant is over SpA and the late spouse was entitled to a Category A State pension at date of death.	Lower age limit removed and not paid to those who have reached SpA.

	Current Benefits	Bereavement Support Payment
Contribution Conditions	Complex – range of contribution conditions apply to existing benefits.	Simplified – only 1 contribution condition will apply to BSP.
Class 3 and credits counted towards eligibility	Yes	No
Overlapping Benefit provision	Yes (except for the lump sum)	No
Overpayments of BSP Recoverability	Yes	Yes
Taxable	Yes (except for the lump sum)	All payments are tax-free
Disregarded for income related benefits including Universal Credit and the Benefit Cap	No	Yes
Have to be Married/in Civil Partnership	Yes	Yes
New claims	Around 2,600	Around 3,500 new claims per year. (Assumption is that more people may be encouraged to claim BSP because the benefit is disregarded in calculations for other benefits)
Annual Increase in existing award	Yes	The rates of BSP <b>may</b> be subject to periodic review however once the award is made the amount will remain the same until the award ceases.
Exportability /EU treatment	Yes	Yes
Affected by re-marriage/re-partnering/living with another	Yes – payment stops	No – Marrying, cohabiting or entering a civil partnership does not affect payments.
Winter Fuel and Xmas bonus entitlement	Yes	No