



Welfare Benefits for the Elderly 2008–2009

in association with
Ferret Information Systems Ltd



**Hodge
Equity
Release**

Release your potential

Welfare Benefits for the Elderly 2008 – 2009

This useful note of benefit rates can help you and your clients ensure that nobody misses out on their entitlements to benefit. It can't take the place of expert advisers or detailed systems such as Fintal, but it can aid you in providing pointers to entitlement.

Ferret have been world leaders in providing information systems for welfare benefits for over 25 years. Financial advisers and mortgage brokers can now take advantage of this experience with Fintal, the equity release and benefits system and FintalPPC the 'pay per case' service.

Hodge Equity Release – 'The Equity Release Specialist'

Hodge Equity Release is a trading name of Hodge Life Assurance Company Limited and Julian Hodge Bank Limited, offering the equity release products of both companies.

The Company introduced the very first equity release plans in 1965 and has continued to earn a reputation for reliability ever since. Hodge Life is a subsidiary of

Julian Hodge Bank and is a founder member of SHIP (Safe Home Income Plans).

As members of this voluntary organisation, we have made a commitment to ensure that our plan holders will never be at risk from any of the plans we offer.

We pride ourselves on the friendly and personal service we have been offering to clients for over 40 years.

Hodge Equity Release provides a wide range of equity release plans allowing your clients to access some of the equity (value) within their home. Whether the requirement is for a cash lump sum, or Cash Reserve Facility, Hodge Equity Release is able to provide a suitable and safe plan to meet your clients financial requirements.

Hodge Equity Release was awarded the accolade of "Equity Release Lender of the Year" at the Financial Adviser Mortgage Awards and "Best Service Provider" at the Equity Release Awards in 2006 and successfully retained both awards for a second year in 2007.

Freephone 0800 731 4076
www.HodgeEquityRelease.com

All figures are weekly amounts, from April 2008

Means tested benefits

Pension Credit (PC)

PC can be paid on its own or on top of other benefits to bring a household's income up to a minimum amount. It has two distinct parts: a 'guarantee credit' for those aged 60 and over, and a 'savings credit' for those aged 65 and over. It is possible to receive one or the other or both and the first £6,000 of capital is ignored. If someone receives Guarantee Credit then they are also entitled to full eligible Housing and Council Tax Benefits.

Guarantee Credit from age 60+ (In a couple, at least one 60+)		
Minimum guarantee	single	£124.05
	couple	£189.35
Additional amounts	severe disability addition	£50.35 (per disabled person)
	Carer's addition	£27.75
Savings Credit from age 65+ (In a couple, at least one 65+)		
Savings credit threshold	single	£91.20
	couple	£145.80
Savings credit maximum	single	£19.71
	couple	£26.13
Capital limits -	lower	upper
standard	£6,000	no upper limit
care home	£10,000	no upper limit
Notional income of £1.00 a week for each £500 or part of capital exceeding £6,000		

Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB)

CTB provides help with Council Tax costs. There is an upper capital limit of £16,000. Those with capital above this figure will not be entitled, unless they are entitled to the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit or are in an “Assessed Income Period” and were getting HB/CTB on entering the AIP.

Personal allowances		
Single person	Aged 60+	£124.05
	aged 65+	£143.80
Couple	at least one 60+	£189.35
	one or both aged 65+	£215.50
Additional amounts	severe disability addition	£50.35 (per eligible disabled person)
	Carer's addition	£27.75
Housing Benefit reduction: 65% of excess income over allowances		
Council Tax Benefit reduction: 20% of excess income over allowances		
Maximum eligible HB/CTB paid if in receipt of Guarantee Pensions Credit.		

For capital exceeding £6,000, for each £500 (or part) this is deemed as notional income of £1.00 per week which will reduce their benefit.

Capital limits - Pension Credit	lower	upper
standard	£6,000	no limit
care home (HB only)	£10,000	no limit
Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit		
standard	£6,000	£16,00
care home (HB only)	£10,000	£16,000

Notional income of £1.00 a week for each £500, or part, of capital exceeding £6,000.

Non means tested benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)

Attendance Allowance is for people who become disabled when over the age of 65. AA has no mobility component and only two levels of care component: lower and higher

lower	£44.85
higher	£67.00

Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is payable to someone who provides support to a disabled child or adult who receives either AA or DLA Care Component (middle or higher rate). If someone is entitled to Carer's Allowance, they will receive an extra amount in the calculation of their Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits.

carers allowance	£50.55
adult dependant	£30.20
childs dependant	£11.35*

*Special rules apply where there are dependant children.

Disability Living Allowance* (DLA)

DLA is a tax-free, non means-tested benefit for severely disabled adults and children. It is for those who need help with their personal care needs and/or have difficulty walking or getting around. DLA has two components: care and mobility. Care has three rates: lower, middle and higher. Mobility has two: lower and higher.

lower care	£17.75
middle care	£44.85
higher care	£67.00
lower mobility	£17.75
higher mobility	£46.75

*DLA cannot be claimed after age 65 but may continue to be paid if claimed earlier.

State Retirement

Retirement Pension	Cat A	£90.70
	adult dependant of Cat A pensioner	£54.35
	Cat B for a widow/ widower	£90.70
	Cat B (Adult dependant on spouse's NI)	£54.35
	Cat D (non contributory)	£54.35
	age addition	£0.25

Winter Fuel Payment

Qualifying week 15–21 September 2008

	Aged 60 or over	Aged 80 or over
Living alone or only eligible person	£200	Additional £100
Receiving Pension Credit	£200	Additional £100
NOT receiving Pension Credit and another eligible person in the household	£100 each	NOT receiving Pension Credit and other eligible person over 80 Additional £50
Live in care home and not receiving Pension Credit	£100	Additional £50

Special rules apply to benefits where there are dependant children.
This guide does not cover the benefits system in detail; it is designed as a quick checker for rates and possible eligibility. It does not try to explain the conditions attached to these benefits.
Rates & rules may change at any time

Important

This is directed at investment professionals and the investment activity to which it relates is only available to those professionals. Persons who do not have professional experience should not rely on the details provided.

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Rates & rules may change at any time.

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Hodge Equity Release is a trading name of
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and Hodge Life Assurance Company Limited
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