

## 'Permitted Work' - working while claiming ESA

Although a claimant in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is not normally allowed to work, they may be able to do some types of work and within certain limits.

This is called '**Permitted Work**' and it allows someone to test their own capacity for doing some work and perhaps gain new skills.

Claimants **must** check that the work they want to do is allowed under the Permitted Work rules and should discuss this with their Employment Service Adviser in their local Social Security or Jobs and Benefits office.

Claimants do not need approval from their doctor or have a medical assessment in order to do Permitted Work. If a medical assessment is due as part of their ongoing benefits-related review, it will go ahead as planned.

Permitted Work is a benefit arrangement - employers do not offer 'permitted work'.

### The Permitted Work rules

Under the Permitted Work rules an ESA claimant can:

- work for less than 16 hours a week on average, with earnings up to £101.00 a week for 52 weeks
- work for less than 16 hours a week, on average, with earnings up to £101.00 a week if they are in the Support Group of the main phase of Employment and Support Allowance
- work and earn up to £20 a week, at any time, for as long as they are receiving Employment and Support Allowance
- do Supported Permitted Work and earn up to £101.00 a week for as long as they are receiving Employment and Support Allowance, provided they continue to satisfy the Supported Permitted Work criteria

**Supported Permitted Work** means work that is supervised by someone who is employed by a public or local authority or a voluntary organisation, and whose job it is to arrange work for people with disabilities. This could be work done in the community or in a sheltered workshop. It also includes work as part of a hospital treatment programme.

### **Income Tax**

If someone starts Permitted Work, they may be liable to pay tax on their extra income. They must notify HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) as soon as they start work.

### **Effect on other benefits**

A claimant in receipt of Housing Benefit or Rates Relief who undertakes Permitted Work, may have any earnings over £20 taken into account when assessing these benefits.

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