



Departmental Report 2009



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This is part of a series of departmental reports which, along with the *Main Estimates 2009-10*, the document *Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses 2009*, and the *Supply Estimates 2009-10: Supplementary Budgetary Information*, present the Government's outturn and planned expenditure for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

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Foreword by the Secretary of State

Even during the best of times, this Department is important for millions of people in this country. During a recession it becomes a lifeline.

The current economic turmoil is bringing uncertainty to everyone. Whether it's the mother trying to get back to work, a family worried about losing their house in the face of redundancy or a couple concerned about the security of their pension, many more people are turning to us for the help they need.

In response, we are providing ever more help, and investing more to make sure the support reaches where it should. Thanks to more than £5 bn extra funding, we can help even before a person loses their job, and the support increases the longer people are out of work up until twelve months unemployment and beyond.

We have expanded the rapid response service, enhanced guidance for jobseekers, increased opportunities for training and entrepreneurship and even guaranteed jobs and training for young people and those most in need. More money means more staff to cope with demand and more money for our providers to protect the service they offer as well as safeguarding new policies such as the flexible new deal.

In contrast to past recessions, we are determined to keep up the active regime that we know works to help people find jobs. We are still processing and paying benefits on time while giving people the help they need to get back to work quickly.

I believe, however, that we must also maintain our focus on preventing a return to large scale worklessness during the downturn. So far we have not seen a serious rise in economic inactivity, due in no small part to the past ten years of welfare reform.

The current welfare reform bill, the innovation of the right to control and our proposed child poverty legislation, are all next steps in the process of making sure that power goes to where it is needed; to our advisers and providers who need the flexibility to offer the most appropriate help; and to our customers who want the choice and control to make the most of it.

We are moving towards a system where practically all our working-age customers will be looking for work or preparing for work in the future. Dame Carol Black's report on the health of employees also shows that we are thinking more than ever about helping people retain their independence in work, and not look to the welfare system in the first place.

All this activity comes over and above improving what we already offer customers and the value we provide for the taxpayer as we deliver new services. We have introduced the Employment and Support Allowance, the new benefit for sick and disabled people, and are working towards implementing a transformation in pensions. Our new commissioning strategy will make for more efficient co-operation with our partners and we are working with other departments to offer a more seamless service while reducing fraud and error.

This report makes clear the phenomenal work that DWP staff are doing, along with our partners, to rise to the economic challenge. I am sure they will continue to do so, providing the lifeline on which so many people can depend, as well as a ladder to a better future.



The Right Honourable Yvette Cooper
Secretary of State

The Department's Ministers



The Right Honourable Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



The Right Honourable Jim Knight MP
Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform



Angela Eagle MP
Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society



Helen Goodman MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary (Commons)



Lord McKenzie of Luton
Parliamentary Under Secretary (Lords)



Jonathan Shaw MP
Minister for Disabled People

Our Executive Team and Non-executive directors



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