Key facts

£87bn

Spending on meanstested benefits in 2009-10 42m

Means-tested benefit claims in payment in 2009-10

1.2m

Cases related to meanstested benefits addressed by Citizens Advice Bureaux in 2009-10

13 per cent Spending on means-tested benefits as a share of total public spending in 2009-10 34 per cent Means-tested benefit payments as share of net income of poorest fifth of households £46 billion Spending on benefits which may be passported from means-tested benefits in 2009-10 £9 billion Total overpayments of tax credits between 2003-04 and 2009-10, due to changes in claimant circumstances Average annual cost of maintaining an existing claim for means-£47 tested Pension Credit, compared to £14 for an existing State Pension claim 152 Local authorities who can decide the conditions for eligibility for state support for adult social care in England