



Public affairs with a difference...

Welfare, Work, Economy, Universities, jobs

Apply for tax credits on Facebook

[Daily Telegraph](#), [The Times Independent](#)

Facebook users could be able to use their logins to access public services online under plans to be unveiled later this month.

A number of other trusted websites will also enable taxpayers to gain access to a range of services, including tax credits, fishing licences and passports.

Login details for social networking websites, as well as those for banks and major retailers, will be used to authenticate the user's identity and, it is hoped, reduce the difficulties people face in having to remember multiple passwords.

It is understood that the Cabinet Office has held talks with the Post Office, high street banks, mobile phone companies and technology firms such as Facebook, Google, Microsoft, PayPal and BT.

A user logging onto the Gov.uk site by phone would be asked to choose to select from a logo from one of the trusted brands, such as Facebook.

The user would then have to enter a Facebook user name and password, with further verification provided by his mobile phone number, GPS location and additional security questions.

yesMinister's comment

Are they serious?? Quite apart from the inherent risks, this serves to simply increase the value of private companies at the expense and risk of the tax payer...

This is likely to open the floodgates for cybercriminals.

Make work pay; but what about the cost of

[The Daily Telegraph](#)

The Centre for Social Justice has calculated that the rising cost of child care could undermine attempts to "make work pay".

Parents with more than two children may be worse off going out to work than staying at home, even after the overhaul of benefits being carried out by the Work and Pensions Secretary. Working parents could be up to £1.06 an hour poorer than they would be on benefits after "extortionate" child care costs.

How welfare assessors told disabled woman to get ready for work - video

- [Video here](#)

British universities fall in global ranking

[The Daily Telegraph](#)

Just 10 British institutions were named among the top 100 compared with 14 two years ago, figures show. The majority of British universities listed in the international rankings had also seen their global standing fall in the past 12 months.

Times Higher Education magazine showed Oxford as joint second-best university behind the California Institute of Technology, which was top for the second year running.

Cambridge was seventh, down one, and Imperial College London retained eighth position, according to the tables.

Experts warned that, beyond a small elite, the standing of British universities had suffered in the face of competition from other nations, particularly in the Far East. It was claimed that British universities were being affected by funding cuts and visa controls that were driving foreign students and senior academics to other countries.

Charities warn Government over Work Programme

[The Daily Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#)

A third of the 400 charities involved, which all signed up to help the long term unemployed back to work under the scheme, said they had not been sent a single candidate from the main companies involved, and a further 15 per cent had received fewer than 10.

They have warned the Government that they may have to pull out of the Work Programme because they are getting so little business referred to them by the big contractors. The charities say they believe the companies are keeping most of the client themselves.

yesMinister
current projects