

Are you **entitled**
to **more...**

**HOUSING
BENEFIT**

or a

**DISCRETIONARY
HOUSING
PAYMENT**



Housing
Executive

HOUSING BENEFIT

There have been changes to housing benefit rules because of welfare reform which may mean your housing benefit was reduced. However, you may be able to get more housing benefit if one of the following describes your household.

EXTRA BEDROOM NEEDED

Are you a couple who cannot share a bedroom because of a disability?

Are you providing a bedroom in your home for use by a carer, or team of carers, who do not usually live with you but need the room so they can provide overnight care for either a disabled child or a disabled adult who does live with you?

TALK TO US

Tell us if one, or both, of these affect your household.

Call your local Housing Benefit office on 03448 920 902

text relay 18001 03448 920 902 with the details.

A THIRD, OR MORE, CHILD(REN) SINCE 11 MAY 17?

There is now a limit on the allowances for children in our housing benefit calculation.

If you do not receive housing benefit to cover the full cost of your rent did you have a third, or further child join your household after 11 May 2017?

If your 'Child Tax Credit Assessment' includes the third or further child we may be able to include them in your housing benefit calculation. To do this you must provide us with your 'Child Tax Credit Assessment' letter or a copy of it.

Important note

If you receive Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance Income Based, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) or Guarantee Pension Credit this does not affect you.

TALK TO US

For further advice on this contact your local Housing Benefit office on 03448 920 902

text relay 18001 03448 920 902 with the details.

CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

It is your responsibility to report any change in your circumstances which may affect your award of housing benefit. **Contact us on 03448 920 902 | text relay 18001 03448 920 902.**

HOUSING BENEFIT ONLINE

You can now make a claim for Housing Benefit online.

It is quick | easy | available 24/7 and will speed up the application process

Go to nihe.gov.uk and start your application today.

DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT

Some changes to the benefit rules under Welfare Reform may have reduced how much Housing Benefit you now get. It may mean you find it more difficult to pay your rent. If you're struggling with paying your rent then read the following to see if you might be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment*.

FAMILY PREMIUM

Were you receiving housing benefit on 5 September 2016 which did not include children? Has a child joined your household since then but you were not awarded full housing benefit?

OR Did you make a new claim for Housing Benefit after 5 September 2016 which includes dependent child(ren) and you were not awarded full housing benefit?

If either of the above has happened to your household and you're finding it difficult to pay your rent then you may be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment.

BENEFIT CAP

The introduction of 'Benefit Cap' means claimants and any partner(s) cannot receive more than £20,000 in benefits in any one year. For a single person without children the limit is £13,400.

If you are on Housing Benefit and Benefit Cap applies to you, the amount of housing benefit you get will be reduced.

How might this affect you?

A person or couples with children whose Housing Benefit decreased because of Benefit Cap may receive 'mitigation' known as a Welfare Supplementary Payment (WSP) to cover the shortfall. This is paid by the

Department for Communities and is available until 31 March 2020.

However, if your circumstances change and this affects your benefits which means your housing benefit is reduced WSP does not increase to cover the new shortfall.

If this affects you and you are struggling to pay your rent, you may be eligible to apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP).

A single person without children affected by Benefit Cap does not qualify for 'mitigation' (WSP) to cover the shortfall and may be eligible for DHP.

SHORTFALL IN RENT (PRIVATE SECTOR TENANTS ONLY)

Is there a difference between the rent you're charged by your landlord (contractual rent) and the rent used by us to work out your

entitlement to Housing Benefit? You are eligible to apply for DHP to help make up some of the difference.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If one of the above affects you then apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment*.

Online: download a form at bit.ly/HEX_DHP

Phone: 03448 920 902 | text relay 18001 03448 920 902 for a form

TALK TO US

For further information or advice on Housing Benefit
T: 03448 920 902 | text relay 18001 03448 920 902
W: nihe.gov.uk

WRITE TO US:

Housing Benefit Offices

Twickenham House
Mount Street,
BALLYMENA
BT43 6BP

E: Northeast.housingbenefit@nihe.gov.uk

Richmond Chambers
The Diamond
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6QP

E: Westarea.housingbenefit@nihe.gov.uk

32-36 Great Victoria Street
BELFAST
BT2 7BA

E: belfasthb@nihe.gov.uk

Strangford House
28 Court Street
NEWTOWNARDS BT23 7NX

E: Southeast.housingbenefit@nihe.gov.uk

Marlborough House
Central Way
CRAIGAVON
BT64 1AJ

E: Southarea.hb@nihe.gov.uk

McAllister House
Woodside Avenue
OMAGH
BT79 7BP

E: omagh.housingbenefit@nihe.gov.uk

FOR FREE INDEPENDENT ADVICE CONTACT

Citizens Advice (Freephone): 0800 028 1881
Welfare Changes Helpline (Freephone): 0808 802 0020