

Council Tax Benefit/ Housing Benefit for Pension Aged Claimants



Council Tax Benefit/Housing Benefit is a Government scheme to help people on low incomes to pay Council Tax and rent. It is sometimes called rent rebate, rent allowance or Council Tax rebate. The scheme is run by local Councils. It is assessed on your income compared with your needs. Outgoings such as mortgage repayments, loans etc; are not taken into account. This leaflet gives details of the scheme and is designed to help you understand the Council Tax Benefit/Housing Benefit Regulations, effective 1 April 2010.

Usually your benefit assessment is based on a figure given to the Council from the Pension Service called the “**Assessed Income Figure**” or “**AIF**”. You will need to contact them to obtain this figure.

Guarantee Credit- If you are in receipt of Guarantee Credit, you will qualify for 100% Council Tax Benefit (subject to non-dependent deductions).

Income- includes earnings; private pensions, state benefits, and savings.

Capital (Savings, etc) - It is the value of capital that is taken into account - not the income received from it.

- Capital of £10,000 and under is ignored if you are of pensionable age.
- For every £500 or part of £500 exceeding £6,000, £1.00 per week is added to income:

APPLICANTS WITH OVER £16,000 WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT/HOUSING BENEFIT

Earned Income and Company Pensions

Gross earned income, less income tax, national insurance contributions and 50% (one-half) of contributions to a Company Pension Fund, will be used to calculate benefit. (For pensions the gross amount, less income tax will be used.)

Applicable Amount – is the amount which the government considers you need to live on. The Applicable Amount is made up of a number of elements. These are personal allowances, allowances for dependants and extra allowances called premiums.

The Allowances are:	Single and less than 65	£ 132.60	
	Single and 65 years old and over	£ 153.15	
	Couples	Both under 65	£ 202.40
	One or both 65 or over		£ 229.50
	Children	Age 0-17	£ 57.57

Non-Dependants

There will be a deduction for all non-dependants over the age of 18 years living with you at the property, except for those in receipt of Income Support (except for rent allowance claims), and certain other persons, e.g. Students.

2nd Adult Rebates

If you have someone sharing your home who is not a partner and is over 18 years of age and not paying a rent, you may be able to claim Council Tax rebate in respect of that person. Entitlement is based on that person's income only.

Deductions for non-dependants for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit

for non-dependants aged 18 and over	from rent	from Council Tax
Income gross Less than £120.00	£ 7.40	£2.30
Income gross £120.00 - £177.99	£17.00	£2.30
Income gross £178.00 - £230.99	£23.35	£4.60
Income gross £231.00 - £305.99	£38.20	£4.60
Income gross £306.00 - £381.99	£43.50	£5.80
Income gross £382.00 +	£47.75	£6.95
for non-dependants aged 18-24 receiving Income Support	NIL	NIL
for non-dependants aged 25 and over in receipt of Income support	£ 7.40	NIL
for non-dependent receiving pension credit	NIL	NIL

An example of how to calculate benefit

Pensioner couple paying rent of £175.00 per week and Council Tax of **£1482.20** per annum (**£28.50 per week**) roughly **Band 'D' charge**.

	PER WEEK		
Income (AIF*) Assessed Income Figure	£ 230.00	Allowances	£ 229.50
Saving Credit	<u>£ 24.30</u>		
<i>*from Pension Service</i>	<u>£ 254.30</u>		<u>£ 229.50</u>

Income exceeds allowances by £28.80

Rent	£ 175.00	Council Tax	£ 28.50
- £24.80 x 65%	<u>£ 16.12</u>	£24.80 x 20%	<u>£ 4.96</u>
Rebate	<u>£ 158.88</u>	Rebate	<u>£ 23.54</u>

If you are not receiving Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit and would like an application form, please complete the slip below and post to:

**Housing Benefits
Spelthorne Borough Council
Knowle Green
Staines
TW18 1XB**

Do not hesitate to contact this office if you require further help or information.

X:\NB\Housing\Leaflets\Council Tax Benefit - Housing Benefit for Pensioners.doc

I would like to apply for Council Tax Benefit/Housing Benefit

Name _____

Address _____



The Government Standard