



Fact Sheet

Housing Benefit

Applications and enquiries about Housing Benefit are dealt with by the Housing Benefits Section. You can contact them on 01302 735336. You can get an application form from any of our local offices.

Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit is paid for people on low incomes to help with their rent. If you are entitled to Housing Benefit, Doncaster Council will also cover some warden visit and intercom charges. Housing Benefit will not cover garage rent, district heating, Home Contents Insurance or water rates. Any person over 16 years old who is a named tenant can apply for benefit. The amount awarded depends on lots of things such as:

- who lives in the house
- their ages
- their relationship to the tenant
- their income and savings
- whether they are disabled

Couples should make a joint application. Joint tenants who aren't couples should apply in their own right. Housing Benefit is only normally paid from the Monday following the date an application is received and normally only once you have moved in to the property so don't delay moving in or making a claim.

Your responsibilities

If you aren't entitled to full Housing Benefit, it is your responsibility to ensure that you pay the difference rent and any arrears you owe. You must inform your local office or the Housing Benefit Section immediately of any changes in your income or circumstances or those of anyone living in your household.

You may be sent a form to renew your claim; you should return this promptly to ensure your claim continues. If you do not send this back on time you may find your Housing Benefit stops. If this happens you will be required to pay the full rent. If you do not then rent arrears will build up and we will take action to recover them. Additionally, these arrears may not be covered by any future Housing Benefit you receive.

Council Tax Benefit

Council Tax Benefit can be claimed by anyone who has to pay Council Tax. If you apply for Housing Benefit you do not have to make a separate claim for Council Tax Benefit as the same information will be used for both claims. The amount awarded depends on lots of things such as:

- who lives in the house
- their ages
- their relationship to the tenant
- their income and savings
- whether they are disabled

Couples should make a joint application. Joint tenants who aren't couples should apply in their own right.

Council Tax discounts

Some households can get reductions on their Council Tax, for example people who live alone or households where someone is a carer or a student. The reduction applies even if you are not on benefits. It does not relate to your income. If you want to apply for a discount on your Council Tax, contact the Council Tax Office on 01302 734454.

Who can claim for Housing Benefit and how can I claim?

Applications for Housing and Council Tax Benefits are handled by the Housing Benefit Section. You can get application forms from your local office. Don't forget that Housing Benefit is only normally paid from the Monday following the date an application is received and only normally once you have move in to the property so don't delay moving in or making a claim.

What if I have any savings?

Savings under a certain amount are not counted when working out entitlement to benefit. Any savings over that amount will reduce the amount of benefit you are entitled to. How much you can have and how it affects your entitlement differs depending on how old you or your partner are. If you have a large amount of savings or capital you may not be entitled to any benefit. Savings include:

- cash
- money in banks or building society accounts
- unit trusts
- stocks and shares
- income or capital bonds
- premium bonds
- lump sum redundancy payments
- PEPs, TESSAs and ISAs

The value of any land or property will also need to be assessed in order to work out entitlement. This could include your former home however the value will normally be ignored while you are taking reasonable steps to sell it.

How is Housing Benefit paid?

Once your application has been processed, you will be notified in writing of the amount you will receive. This amount will be paid directly onto your rent account each week. If your benefit does not cover your rent in full, you will have to pay the difference to us along with any service charges, charges for Home Contents Insurance and garage rent.

What if my application is not successful?

You have the right to appeal. You need to act quickly as there are time limits on appeals. Contact the Housing Benefit Section immediately on 01302 735336. Alternatively you could contact our Income Maximisation Officer for help on 01302 862256.

Can I claim other benefits

There are a variety of benefits, each with different conditions. You can find out about these through the Department for Works and Pension or by speaking to our Income Maximisation Officer on 01302 862256.

For further information contact

Write to: St. Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd
St. Leger Court
White Rose Way
Doncaster
DN4 5ND
Fax: 01302 862720
Email: info@stlegerhomes.co.uk



TRANSLATE

BRAILLE | LARGE PRINT | AUDIO

1 Türkçe

3 فارسی

5 國語

7 کۆردی

2 Русский

4 Polski

6 العربية

8 اورد

