

Benefit on two homes



Number 11 in a series of benefit information leaflets.



Benefit on two homes

Occasionally you may be liable to pay rent on two properties at the same time, for example when you are moving home. If you already get **Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, in some special circumstances you could receive benefit on two homes.**

This leaflet is part of a series (illustrated opposite) produced by a group of local authorities to help make Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit easier to understand.

- 1 How to claim benefit
- 2 Backdating your benefit claim
- 3 Change of circumstances
- 4 Non-dependants
- 5 Help with child-care costs
- 6 Self-employed benefit claims
- 7 Student benefit claims
- 8 Overpayment of benefit
- 9 Extended benefit payment
- 10 Discretionary housing payment
- 11 Benefit on two homes
- 12 Temporary absence from your home
- 13 Home visits
- 14 Discussing your benefit claim with other people
- 15 How to appeal

When could benefit be paid on two homes?

We can consider paying benefit on two homes in the following circumstances:

- you are in fear of violence;
- you are students or trainees;
- you are a large family;
- there is an unavoidable overlap while moving.

Fear of violence

We can pay benefit on two rented homes for up to a maximum of 52 weeks if you have left your home in the following situations:

- through fear of violence in your home, for example from a family member or neighbour; or
- through fear of violence outside your home by a former member of your family, for example an ex-partner or adult child.

You must intend to return to your original home in both these situations.

Students/trainees

We can pay benefit on two homes if you or your partner is a student or on a training course and entitled to benefit and it is:

- unavoidable that you need to have two homes;
- reasonable in the circumstances that benefit should be paid on two homes.

There is no time limit on the payment, as long as we are satisfied that the occupation of two homes is unavoidable.

Large families

If we have housed your family in two separate properties because of the size of the family, we will treat you as occupying both properties as your home and we will pay benefit on both. Both homes must have been provided, but not necessarily owned, by the council.

If you find one or both of your properties through the private sector, benefit can be paid on only one home.

Unavoidable overlap while moving home

We can pay benefit for up to a maximum of four weeks on both homes in either of the following situations:

- if you cannot move into your new home straight away because it is being adapted to meet the needs of a member of your family who is disabled; or
- if you have had to move in to your new home before the period of notice on your old home has ended and this was unavoidable.

Making a claim for benefit on two homes

Contact the Benefits Office as soon as possible. Write to us or phone us for a claim form (contact details are on the back of this leaflet).

Other formats

This leaflet is also available in large print, Braille, on audio cassette and in other languages. Please contact us if you need this leaflet in one of these formats.

This leaflet gives basic advice and is a general guide. If you have a question that is not answered in this leaflet, or if you want more advice, please contact us.

Participating authorities: Broxbourne, Dacorum, Hertsmeire, Ipswich, Lincoln City, North Herts, St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers and Welwyn Hatfield.



Where to get help and advice

To get more information you can visit us at our Hertsmere office:

Civic Offices

Elstree Way, Borehamwood WD6 1WA

Offices are open: Mon to Thu 9am – 5.15pm

Fri 9am – 5pm

Telephone: 020 8207 7404

Email: benefits@hertsmere.gov.uk

Fax: 020 8207 7403

Website: www.hertsmere.gov.uk

Potters Bar Area Office

Wyllyotts Centre

Wyllyotts Place, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2HN

Offices are open: Mon to Fri 9.30am – 2pm

Telephone: 01707 652406

Bushey Area Office

Bushey Centre

High Street, Bushey WD23 1TT

Offices are open: Mon to Fri 9.30am – 2pm

Telephone: 020 8386 4048