

# Housing benefit changes – are you affected?

If you or your household...	The change	Date this will happen
...are claiming welfare benefits (including housing benefit, child benefit and child tax credits, income support, employment and support allowance)	<p>the total amount of benefits* you can receive will be limited. The 'benefit cap' means the maximum payment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£500 pw for single parents or couples with children</li> <li>£350 pw for single people</li> </ul>	<p><b>from April 2013.</b></p> <p>*Please note, if you are receiving certain benefits, or working tax credit, or are of pension age, the 'benefit cap' will not apply to you. It also does not apply to some people who lose their job after being employed for a year. For more information, please seek advice from the organisations below.</p>
...are renting from a housing association or the council, are under pension age, and are 'under occupying' your home	<p>your housing benefit will be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14% if you have 1 extra bedroom</li> <li>25% if you have 2 or more extra bedrooms</li> </ul>	<p><b>from April 2013.</b></p> <p>You do not have to have a spare bedroom to be classed as 'under occupying'. For more information, please seek advice from the organisations below.</p>
...are aged 25–35, are single and live on your own	<p>your housing benefit could be reduced, as it can only be paid up to the cost of renting a room in a shared house</p>	<p><b>from January 2012.</b></p> <p>This will not apply to certain groups of people under 35. For more information, please seek advice from the organisations below.</p>
...are private renters and are making your first or a new claim, or if your current claim is being reviewed	<p>your housing benefit can only be paid up to a maximum of the rent levels within the lowest third of market rents for your area</p>	<p><b>from April 2011.</b></p> <p>For existing claims: 9 months after the anniversary of your claim, unless the size of your household changes. For more information, please seek advice from the organisations below.</p>
... are private renters	<p>your housing benefit will be 'capped' according to the size of your home. You will only get housing benefit up to a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£250 pw for 1 bedroom</li> <li>£290 pw for 2 bedrooms</li> <li>£340 pw for 3 bedrooms</li> <li>£400 pw for 4 bedrooms or for any property with more than 4 bedrooms. This is the maximum amount you will get even if you have a larger property</li> </ul>	<p><b>from April 2011.</b></p> <p>For existing claims: 9 months after the anniversary of your claim, unless the size of your household changes. For more information, please seek advice from the organisations below.</p>
...are disabled and need an extra room for a carer to stay overnight	<p>you will be able to get housing benefit to cover the cost (according to size criteria) of living somewhere with an extra room to enable this</p>	<p><b>from April 2011.</b></p> <p>With immediate effect for new or existing claims. For more information, seek advice from the organisations below.</p>