

# Housing Costs – non-dependants

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## Introduction

The housing cost calculation takes account of the number of rooms required by the extended [benefit unit](#) based on the people who live there. This includes people called non-dependants.

A non-dependant is any person, adult or child, normally resident in the household who is not:

- a member of the [Assessment Unit](#);
- a sub-tenant, boarder or lodger;
- a foster child;
- a person to whom the benefit unit has a liability to pay rent (i.e. the claimant's landlord); or
- a person with an independent liability to pay rent to the landlord (i.e. a joint tenant who is not part of the benefit unit).

Examples of non-dependants are:

- parents
- a carer who stays overnight at the claimant's home
- a child you are not normally responsible for.

Exemptions apply - [see below](#).

Children can be expected to share rooms together (for example, children of the main claimant(s) with those of non-dependants).

## Housing Cost Contribution

If there is a room allocated to a non-dependant, a Housing Cost Contribution (HCC) is deducted from the housing costs in respect of each adult non-

dependant. This is currently set at £69.37 per month from April 2015 and is usually updated each April (frozen for 2016).

If there are multiple households in one property, for example a group of friends living all together as joint tenants, a non-dependant living with them will be added to only one of the Universal Credit claims. That claim will have an additional bedroom allocation, but also a HCC applied (if no exemption). The claims from the other joint tenants are unaffected.

## **Exemptions from the Housing Cost Contribution**

An HCC is not applied where the non-dependant is:

- under 21 years of age
- in receipt of Pension Credit
- in receipt of a specified benefit paid on account of disability (mainly the middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP), Attendance Allowance
- normally entitled to the above specified benefits, but not currently in receipt due to hospitalisation.
- in receipt of Carers Allowance
- responsible for a child under age 5
- a person temporarily absent due to imprisonment

## **Claimants in the social rented sector**

Universal Credit claimants living in social rented sector (SRS) housing will usually have their full rent and any eligible service charges included in their housing costs calculation. However, a HCC is applied where a non-dependant aged over 21 has been allocated a bedroom, unless exceptions apply.

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