

Specified Accommodation (Supported ‘exempt’ Accommodation)

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Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Specified Accommodation](#)

[Claimants fleeing violence](#)

Introduction

The housing cost for claimants in specified accommodation, previously known as ‘supported ‘exempt’ accommodation’ is normally met by local authorities through Housing Benefit and not Universal Credit. Exceptions apply if a claimant is fleeing violence.

These claimants can be some of the most vulnerable citizens in society.

Any eligibility doubt must be checked with the local authority to ensure housing cost is paid by the correct organisation and rent is not met twice, to avoid overpayments and recovery action.

A call to the LA housing benefit team is made if there is any doubt about if a claim is exempt.

Specified accommodation

Is classed as the following:

- for Universal Credit, Supported Exempt Accommodation is a resettlement place or accommodation provided by a non-metropolitan county council (in England), housing association, registered charity or voluntary organisation (the organisation providing the accommodation, or person acting on their behalf, must provide the claimant with care, support or supervision)

- accommodation into which the claimant has been admitted in order to meet a need for care, support or supervision that is provided by one of the following:
 - county council
 - housing association
 - registered charity
 - voluntary organisation

- accommodation for victims of domestic violence where they are managed by:
 - local authorities
 - county councils
 - housing associations
 - registered charities
 - voluntary organisations
- hostel accommodation provided by local authorities where care, support or supervision is also provided.

Claimants fleeing violence

May have their housing costs paid for two properties for up to 12 Assessment periods see Paying for two homes.

Claimants aged between 18 and under 22 years old in all work related requirements conditionality are not normally eligible for housing costs, but exemptions apply for those fleeing violence see 18 to 21 year olds and housing costs

[Back to contents](#)