

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 (meaning the claimant's landlord)
- a person with an independent liability to pay rent to the landlord (this is 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 the claimant is not normally responsible for.

In both the Social Rented Sector and Private Rented Sector, non-dependants are expected to contribute towards the claimant's housing costs unless they are in an exempt category. Refer to [Exemptions from the Housing Cost Contribution](#) to see when exemptions apply.

Children can be expected to share rooms together (for example, children of the main claimant or claimants 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.

The current monthly rate is available in Universal Credit monthly rates (under non-dependant's housing costs contribution) which is usually updated each April.

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 will also have a HCC applied - if there is no exemption. The claims from the other joint tenants are unaffected.

Exemptions from the Housing Cost Contribution

There is no deduction where a single person renter or any joint renter is:

- registered as blind
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component at the middle or highest rate
- in receipt of Attendance Allowance
- in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) daily living component
- is entitled to a payment of the above benefits but not receiving it
- in the case of PIP - a person not receiving it because they are in hospital

Instances where a Housing Cost Contribution is not applied

The 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 DLA, the daily living component of PIP, Armed Forces Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance)
- entitled to the above specified benefits but not currently in receipt due to being in hospital
- in receipt of Carers Allowance
- responsible for a child aged under 5
- a person temporarily absent due to imprisonment
- a member of the armed forces away on operations:
 - who is the son, daughter, step-son or step-daughter of a renter or joint renters, and
 - resided with the renter or joint renters immediately before leaving to go on operations, and
 - intends to return to reside with the renter or joint renters at the end of the operations

Claimants in the Social Rented Sector

Universal Credit claimants living in Social Rented Sector housing have their full rent and any eligible service charges included in their housing costs calculation. For exceptions to this statement, refer to the 'Spare Room subsidy In Social

Rented Sector' guide. However, a HCC is applied where a non-dependant aged over 21 has been allocated a bedroom, unless exceptions apply.

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