

Paying for two homes

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A claimant may have liability to pay rent on two homes.

The housing costs can be considered for both homes, in the following circumstances:

- The claimant leaves their normal home through fear of violence
- a move to a new home is delayed for adaptations for a disabled person
- the claimant is housed in two homes within the Social Rented Sector (SRS) because of the number of children and qualifying young persons living with them

Value of the housing costs element

When the claimant leaves their home through fear of violence or a move to a new home is delayed for adaptations for a disabled person, the housing cost element is worked out by:

- Calculating the housing costs element for each property (including any relevant housing costs contributions) and add them together
- If a deduction was made for housing cost contributions in respect of both homes, the amount of the housing costs contributions in respect of the new home must be added to the total housing costs.

Where SRS tenants are housed in two properties owing to the size of their household, they may be charged either a single rent liability for both homes, or two separate rent liabilities for each home.

The value of the housing costs element in this case is worked out using total amount of rent charged for both properties, with any deductions for spare bedrooms taken against this single total.

Leave their home through fear of violence

Where the household or members of the household leave their home through fear of violence but intend to return, liability for the home that has been left and any new home can be met for up to 12 assessment periods

The exception is where the new home is Specified Accommodation, when housing costs support for the new home is available via Housing Benefit. Only the liability for the previous home can be met in UC, subject to the time limit.

Move to a new home delayed for adaptations for a disabled person

Where a move to a new home is delayed for adaptations for a disabled member of the household, liability for both the current and new home can be met for 1 assessment period. The disabled person must be in receipt of a specified benefit as follows:

- Attendance Allowance at higher rate
- Disability Living Allowance care component at the middle or higher rate
- Child Disability Payment (CDP) in Scotland
- Personal Independence Payment daily living component (either rate)
- Adult Disability Payment (ADP)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Constant Attendance Allowance paid as part of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit or War Disablement Benefit

Housed in two homes

Where the claimant is housed in two homes by a SRS landlord because of the size of their household, liability for both homes can be met indefinitely. There is no time limit.