

Housing Costs Contributions – non-dependants

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Introduction

The housing cost calculation takes account of the number of rooms required by the benefit unit and 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 benefit 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 joint tenant – a person with an independent liability to pay rent to the landlord who is not part of the benefit unit.

Non-dependants could be:

- parents
- an adult son or daughter
- a child the claimant is not normally responsible for.

In both the Social Rented Sector (SRS) and Private Rented Sector (PRS), non-dependants may be expected to contribute towards the claimant's housing costs unless the claimant is in an exempt category or the non-dependant's circumstances mean no deduction is applicable.

Refer to Exemptions from the Housing Cost Contribution to see when exemptions apply and Instances where a Housing Cost Contribution is not applied to see when no deduction is applicable.

When considering the size criteria (DN: insert link), children can be expected to share rooms together, such as children of the main claimant or claimants with those of non-dependants, whereas each adult non-dependant is allocated their own room.

Housing Cost Contribution

Subject to any exceptions and exemptions, a housing cost contribution (HCC) is deducted from the housing costs for each non-dependant who is in the renters extended benefit unit.

The current non-dependant's housing costs contribution is available in Universal Credit monthly rates. It 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 renter or any joint renter is:

- registered as blind
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component or Child Disability Payment (CDP) in Scotland at the middle or highest rate
- in receipt of Attendance Allowance
- in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) daily living component
- Adult Disability Payment (ADP)
- 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 or CDP in Scotland, 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