

# **Housing Costs Contributions from non-dependants: Guidance**

## **Contents**

Introduction

Housing Costs Contribution

Exemptions from the Housing Costs Contribution

When the Housing Costs Contribution is not applied

## **Introduction**

The housing costs 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 and Private Rented Sector, 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 means that no deduction is applicable

This is known as the Housing Costs Contribution.

Refer to Exemptions from the Housing Costs Contribution for when exemptions apply and When the Housing Costs Contribution is not applied for when no deduction is applicable.

When considering the size criteria, 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 Costs Contribution**

Subject to any exceptions and exemptions, a Housing Costs Contribution is deducted from the housing costs for each non-dependant who is in the renter's extended benefit unit.

The non-dependant Housing Costs Contribution amount is available on the [Benefit and pension rates](#) page on GOV.UK.

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 Housing Costs Contribution applied if there is no exemption. The claims from the other joint tenants are unaffected.

## **Exemptions from the Housing Costs Contribution**

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

- registered as blind
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) middle or high rate care component or Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance (SADLA) or Child Disability Payment (CDP) in Scotland at the middle or highest rate care component
- in receipt of Attendance Allowance (AA) or Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP) in Scotland
- in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Daily Living Component
- in receipt of Armed Forces Independence Payment
- in receipt of Adult Disability Payment (ADP) Daily Living Component at the standard or enhanced rate
- 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

## **When the Housing Costs Contribution is not applied**

The Housing Costs Contribution is not applied when 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 SADLA (in Scotland) or [CDP](#) (in Scotland), the Daily Living Component of PIP, Armed Forces Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance or Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP) in Scotland)
- entitled to the above specified benefits but not currently in receipt due to being in hospital
- in receipt of Carer's Allowance or Carer Support Payment (Scotland)
- 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, stepson or stepdaughter 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