

Temporary Accommodation

Temporary Accommodation is accommodation provided to meet a local authority's duty to homeless persons in accordance with the Housing Act. The accommodation must be provided by the local authority, or a housing association on the local authority's behalf.

Claimants who live in temporary accommodation and make a new claim to Universal Credit will not receive an amount for their housing costs. Instead, claimants will claim Housing Benefit for their rent. They will still receive their standard allowance and any other Universal Credit additional amounts that they are entitled to.

Claimants who were in temporary accommodation prior to 11 April 2018 and already receiving Universal Credit housing costs, will continue to do so until there is a change in the amount of rent they are charged by the local authority. Once the rent amount changes, the claimant will no longer be able to receive housing costs support through Universal Credit and must claim Housing Benefit instead for support with their rent.

Claimants who live in Private Rented Sector accommodation on a temporary basis cannot be treated as living in temporary accommodation, unless they have been placed in that accommodation by a local authority because they were homeless and they pay their rent to a local authority or housing association. Instead their claim must be treated as Private Rented Sector accommodation and assessed in Universal Credit in the usual way, even when the Private Rented Sector landlord calls it temporary accommodation.

Discretionary Housing Payments are available from local authorities to claimants living in temporary accommodation for any assessment period where the claimant would have been entitled to Universal Credit housing costs if the accommodation had not been temporary accommodation.