



Housing and Council Tax Benefit Factsheet

May 2010

Are you now finding it difficult to pay your rent and Council Tax?

You may be able to get extra money in the form of
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

This is only for help with RENT and COUNCIL TAX and is not for help with your MORTGAGE, which comes from Income Support.

If you receive **Income Support** or **Guarantee Pension Credit** you will receive full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, which will cover the entire amount of your Rent and Yearly Council Tax.

If you are not receiving Income Support or Guarantee Pension Credit you may still receive some help towards your Rent and Council Tax. You may not receive the full amount but a proportion if:

- You are working and have low earnings (you will need to find out whether your income is low enough from an Advice Centre)
- Or**
- You are not working but your income from pensions and other benefits is low (you will need seek assistance to find out whether your income is low enough – see contact details below)
- And**
- You have less than £16,000 savings.

Do any Benefits reduce their Payment?

Yes! The following Benefits will reduce the amount of Housing and Council Tax Benefit that you receive:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Bereavement Benefits
- Retirement Pension
- Carer's Allowance
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Do any Benefits not reduce their payment?

Yes! The following Benefits will not reduce their payment:

- Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component)
- Disability Living Allowance (Care Component)
- Attendance Allowance

How to Claim

Contact the Housing Benefits Section and Council Tax Section of your local Town hall immediately and ask for the Benefit forms and that arrears of Benefit are considered. Explain that you, or a member of your family, are suffering from Mesothelioma.

Arrears of Benefits**Under age 60**

If there are special reasons for the delay in claiming Housing Benefits you may be able to have arrears paid for up to 12 months.

Age 60 or over

Since April 2005 the Town Hall should automatically consider an application for payment of arrears of Housing Benefits for up to 12 months. If you cannot contact the Council yourself please ask a relative or friend to contact them for you.

What to do if you are unhappy with Decision?

You need to write to the Town Hall within a month of the date of the letter containing the decision and explain that you wish to appeal their decision. Get help with writing the letter (contact details below). It is possible to appeal late outside the time limit. You can appeal up to 13 months after the date of letter containing decision. You will need to show some special reasons for the delay.

For help to check exactly which benefits you are able to claim, help to fill in the necessary forms or to discuss any problems you have with your benefits call:

Macmillan Benefits Helpline on freephone 0808 808 0000

Mon – Fri 9am – 8pm

Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group, your local Citizens' Advice Bureau or a local specialist nurse for advice and assistance.