

Benefits Service - Extended Payments

Details on how to get an Extended Payment of Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

What is an Extended Payment?

Extended Payments are payments of Housing and Council Tax Benefit made for the first four weeks when you or your partner either start work or increase your hours or earnings, and as a result you are no longer entitled to either:

- Income Support, or
- Job seekers Allowance(Income Based), or
- Employment and Support Allowance (from 27 October 2008) or
- Incapacity Benefit, or
- Severe Disablement Allowance

Who is entitled?

If you, or your partner:

- are under 60 years of age and
- you expect your new work or your increased hours to last for at least 5 weeks and
- you have been receiving:
 - Jobseeker's Allowance,
 - Income Support,
 - Incapacity Benefit or
 - Severe Disablement Allowance or
 - Employment and Support Allowance (from 27 October 2008)for a continuous period of 26 weeks or more, you may qualify for an Extended Payment.

How do I get this extra benefit ?

You do not have to make a claim for an Extended Payment we will check whether you are entitled to an Extended Payment when you start work as part of our normal change of circumstance procedures. We will also consider whether you are still entitled to Housing and/or Council Tax Benefit based on your new circumstances.

What happens next ?

If you have satisfied the conditions we will amend your benefit claim to continue for up to 4 weeks from the Monday after your Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support or Incapacity Benefit stopped.

You will be paid at the rate you already receive and we will write to you confirming this. We may need to ask you for information about your new income so that we can check whether you are still entitled to Housing and Council Tax Benefit. We will write to you if we need more information.

When we have all the necessary information we will work out your claim based on your new income details.

What happens if I have a change in circumstances during the Extended Payment period?

Changes of circumstance during the Extended Payment period will not normally affect the rate of the Extended Payment.

However, if you report a change of circumstances during the Extended Payment period which might affect your entitlement to In-work HB/CTB this may affect the rate of your Extended Payment.

If the change means that the rate of In-work HB/CTB

- would be higher than the rate of the Extended Payment, then we will pay you the In-work HB/CTB rate.
- remains lower than the rate of the Extended Payment, then we will continue to pay you the Extended Payment rate until the end of the Extended Payment period.

What happens if I move from another Local Authority during the Extended Payment period?

If you move from another Local Authority during the Extended Payment period they will continue to pay the Extended Payment until the end of the Extended Payment period.

If you (or your partner) make a claim for In-work HB/CTB, while you are receiving an Extended Payment from another Local Authority, we will reduce the weekly amount of your In-work HB/CTB by the amount of the weekly Extended Payment you are receiving, until the end of the Extended Payment period.