

Benefits Service – Non-dependant deductions

What is a non-dependant ?

A non-dependant is a person aged 18 or over who lives in your home, or is using your home as their main residence on a non commercial basis. A non-dependant does not have to be a family member.

Will my benefit be affected ?

If you have a non-dependant living in your home, we may have to reduce your benefit. This is called a non-dependant deduction.

What do I need to do ?

You must let us know if somebody has moved into or out of your home. This may affect your benefit. If you have a non-dependant who changes jobs or has an increase or decrease in their earnings or income, you must let us know. It may reduce or increase the deduction we make. If your non-dependant is receiving any state benefits, we will also have to take these into account.

How is the deduction calculated?

The Government sets a weekly deduction for non-dependants based on bands of income. The more income they have, the greater the deduction from your benefit. If your non-dependant is working, on benefit or receiving a private pension, the charge is based on their GROSS income.(Gross income is the amount before tax and national insurance are deducted).

The Government announced in the June Budget that from April 2011 the non-dependant deductions in Housing and Council Tax Benefit, which have been frozen since 2001, will increase gradually over the next three years. This means that the rate of the deduction from April 2011 will be as follows:

Category	Rate	
	HB	CTB
Aged 25 or over and in receipt of IS, JSA(IB) or main phase ESA(IR).	£9.40	Nil
Aged 18 or over, not in remunerative work	£9.40	£2.85
Aged 18 or over, and in remunerative work		
- gross income less than £122.00	£9.40	£2.85

- gross income £122.00 to £179.99	£21.55	£2.85
- gross income £180.00 to £233.99	£29.60	£5.70
- gross income £234.00 to £309.99	£48.45	£5.70
- gross income £310.00 to £386.99	£55.20	£7.20
- gross income £387.00 or over	£60.60	£7.20

Are there any cases where no deduction is made ?

Yes. Listed below you will find the main areas where no charge is made.

- You are a pensioner, aged 65 or over, and a new non-dependant joins your household. There is no deduction for 6 months.
- If you or your partner are receiving Attendance Allowance.
- If you or your partner are registered blind.
- If you or your partner receive the care component of Disability Living Allowance.
- If your non-dependant is a full time student, or receives a work based training allowance.
- If your non-dependant is in hospital for 6 weeks or more.
- If your non-dependant is in prison or normally living elsewhere.

Do I need to provide any information ?

Yes, we will need to see proof of your non-dependant's income. Until we receive proof, we will make the highest deduction from the benefit. Once we have all the information we need, we will work out the non-dependant's income and adjust your claim accordingly.

The following are some examples of proof of income.

- Wage slips.
- A complete employers certificate of earnings.
- Award letter from the Jobcentre Plus or Inland Revenue.
- Student award letter.
- Accounts (if your non-dependant is self-employed).

We will write and let you know how this affects your benefit.