

What happens if my claim for backdated benefit is unsuccessful?

We will write to advise you of the outcome of your claim for backdated benefit. If your claim is unsuccessful you have the right to appeal.

You must write to us within one calendar month of the date on your decision letter. See our separate leaflet (No. 5) "Understanding our decision and making an appeal."

What if I am aged 60 years or over?

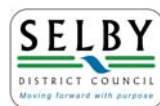
If you or your partner are aged 60 or over your claim may cover any period in the 3 months before the day your claim was received.

You do not need to apply for backdating as your local Council's Benefits Service will automatically check whether you qualify.

Other leaflets available:

- ▶ 1 How to claim
- ▶ 2 Non-dependant deductions
- ▶ 3 Overpayments
- ▶ 4 Extended payments
- ▶ 5 Understanding our Decision and Making an Appeal
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Housing & Council Tax Benefit



Backdated benefit

Leaflet also available in large print

Introduction

This guide is one of a number produced with the aim of helping customers understand Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

It is intended as a general guide. People have different circumstances so for more detailed individual advice please contact your local Council's Benefits Service.



What is backdating?

Housing and Council Tax Benefit is usually paid from the Monday after we get your claim but in some circumstances we can pay from an earlier date.

'Backdated' benefit is paid for a period prior to the date that an application form is received. If you are aged under 60 your claim can be backdated for up to 6 months from the date the claim for backdated benefit is received providing you show continuous 'good cause' why you did not claim from an earlier date.

Some examples of 'good cause'

- You could not have immediately claimed as you were in or just leaving hospital
- You have been ill and no-one could make a claim on your behalf
- You received wrong advice from the Benefits Service, Jobcentre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau or another official body
- You did not understand that you could claim due to your age, health, inexperience or language difficulties
- You are unable to manage your affairs but you do not have an appointee

In most circumstances we may ask you to provide evidence. For example if you were ill then we may need to see a letter from your doctor that confirms this.

There may be another reason why you could not claim from an earlier date therefore it is important that you contact us to seek further advice.

How do I request a backdated benefit?

All requests must be made in writing and you must give the reasons why you want your claim to be backdated. Your local Council's Benefits Service may have a backdated benefit request form you can use.

You will also need to provide proof of your income for the period you are requesting backdated benefit for. For example if you were working then we will need to see your payslips.

What happens if my claim is successfully backdated?

If you are claiming for Council Tax Benefit then the backdated benefit will be credited to your Council Tax account.

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit then the backdated money will be credited to your local authority rent account or sent to the person who already receives the payment. This could be either yourself, your landlord, your appointee or a third party.