# Claim form for Housing Benefit and application for Council Tax Reduction



Name and	address	of the	person
claiming o	r applyir	ng:	

For office use only
Issue date:
Date received:

Reference number:

#### Revenues and Benefits Office, Business Hub 16, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB

Phone: 03000 200 292 (visit the Contact Us page on our website for up to date opening hours).

Email: benefits@aberdeencity.gov.uk

#### How to fill in this form

- Please fill in this form using black ink. There are notes to help you on the next two pages.
- Please answer all the questions on the form. If they do not apply to you, write 'None' in the box provided. If you do not fill in the form properly, it will take us longer to deal with your claim or application.
- We may ask for information and proof to support your claim or application. You must send us
  original documents. We cannot accept photocopies. If you cannot provide any information or
  proof, please let us know straight away.
- You can give your form and proof to a member of staff in our Revenues and Benefits department at our office shown below.
- We can then copy and return your original proof to you while you are there.
- You **must** return this form straight away, even if you do not have all the information we have asked for. If you do not, you may lose any benefit or reduction that you are entitled to.

Please return your completed form by post to

Revenues and Benefits Freepost RSSB-GCGE-BECJ Business Hub 16 Aberdeen City Council Marischal College Broad Street

Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Or scan and email it to <u>benefits@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u>. Please make sure you include every page even if these do not apply to your individual circumstances.

For up to date information on the opening hours of our office, please visit <u>www.aberdeencity.</u> gov.uk. Please only visit our office if you have an appointment or emergency request.

#### **Personal details**

'Partner' means someone of the same or opposite sex that you live with as a couple. You may be married or in a civil partnership, or living together as if you are husband and wife or as if you are civil partners. (A civil partnership is a formal arrangement that gives same-sex couples the same legal status as a married couple.)

#### 'Your nationality'

You must answer these questions on page 8 & 9, otherwise we cannot pay you benefit or give you a reduction. If you have not lived in the UK for the whole of the last five years, or if there are doubts about your immigration status, we may send you another form to fill in. Don't forget, for new claims or applications you must give us proof of identity and National Insurance numbers for you and also for your partner, if you have one. On the checklist, there is a full list of the type of documents we can accept as proof (see page 30).

#### Children and young people

This section must only be used for children who are living with you, and who you get Child Benefit for. This would usually be your own children who are still at school, or in further education or training and under 20. Adult children, or children who are in higher education (for example, university), who still live with you should be included in section J, 'Other people who live with you.

#### Other people who normally live with you

These people are often referred to as 'non-dependants'. A non-dependant is someone who lives with you, but does not pay any rent. They may have an informal arrangement to give you an agreed amount for their keep. People in this group may include grown-up children, parents, other relatives or friends. A non-dependant is different from a boarder, subtenant, joint tenant or non-resident overnight carer.

A **'boarder'** is someone who lives with you and who has an agreement with you to pay for their accommodation. Part of what they pay will be for meals which are eaten on your premises.

A **'subtenant'** is someone who pays you for accommodation, but whose rent does not cover any meals.

A 'joint tenant' is someone (not your partner) who is jointly responsible with you for paying the rent at the property you live in.

A 'non-resident overnight carer' is someone who stays overnight to care for you or someone in your family. The carer must live elsewhere and when they stay overnight, it must be in a separate bedroom.

#### Income

If you cannot provide proof of your earnings, you will need to ask your employer to fill in a certificate of earnings. If you have just started work and do not have any payslips, you can ask your employer to send us a letter telling us when you started work, what you will be paid, and how many hours you will work. You can send us your payslips as you get them. If you do send them in separately from this form, please make sure that your name, address and National Insurance number are clearly marked.

**'Self-employed earners'** – Where possible, you should send us properly prepared accounts. If you have not been self-employed for very long, or if for some reason you cannot provide accurate and complete accounts, we may have to

send you another form to fill in. You can save time by ringing us and asking for this now, if you know that you will need it.

**'Students'** – Most students cannot qualify for benefit or reduction, but the rules are quite complicated and there are many exceptions. The following groups of students can claim Housing Benefit or apply for Council Tax Reduction.

- Those getting Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Those on part-time courses
- · Those of pensionable age
- · Those responsible for a child
- Those who have a disability premium or who have been classed as unfit for work for over 28 weeks

This is not a full list of students who can claim or apply. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please ring us, or send in the filled-in form for assessment.

#### Other income

You should use this section to list all other income you may receive. Don't forget to tell us about any changes in your income, for example when your Jobseeker's Allowance is due to end or you stop getting Child Benefit for one of your children.

#### Savings and investments

So that we can assess your claim or application accurately, you need to tell us about all your capital which is held either here or abroad. 'Capital' means bank accounts, building-society accounts, deposit accounts with other organisations (for example, the Post Office or insurance companies), cash, National Savings Certificates, Premium Bonds, shares, stocks, unit trusts, PEPs, ISAs and TESSAs. It also includes any land or property which you own, apart from where you are living. We will also need to know if you have money in a trust fund. This is not meant to be a complete list – please phone us if you have any questions. If your total capital is more than £16,000, you may not claim Housing Benefit or apply for Council Tax Reduction (or both) unless you or your partner are receiving Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit). If you have capital of more than £16,000 you can claim or apply in certain circumstances, for example, we ignore Far Eastern Prisoner of War payments of more than £20,000.

#### **Your tenancy**

'An agent' is someone employed by the landlord. It can be an individual or a company, and they can be responsible for just collecting the rent from you, or they may provide your tenancy agreement as well, and be your contact point for any problems you may have. If you have a formal tenancy agreement, the details of both landlord and agent should be on the agreement.

#### **Your rent**

Your landlord should have explained to you whether or not any services are included within your rent, and you should give as much detail here as you can. If you cannot give us exact figures, we may have to make standard deductions, which are laid down by central government, or we may have to contact your landlord. We only need this information if you are a private tenant.

## Payment of Housing Benefit and awards of Council Tax Reduction

For new claims and applications, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction are usually awarded from the Monday after we receive your form. If you are also a new tenant or occupier, we can award Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction from the date that you become responsible for the property, but only if we receive your claim or application form by the Sunday after your tenancy starts. Housing Benefit for private tenants is normally paid every month for the previous month. Housing Benefit for council tenants is paid straight into your rent account. Council Tax Reduction reduces the amount of Council Tax. If you rent from a private landlord and are making a new claim or you move address, you will normally have your Housing Benefit paid directly to you under Local Housing Allowance. The safest and easiest way to receive your Housing Benefit is directly into your bank account. We cannot pay Housing Benefit into a Post Office account.

#### **Backdating**

It may be possible to backdate your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction and pay it from an earlier date if you have a good reason for not claiming or applying on time. If you want us to look at your claim or application from an earlier date, please fill in section N 'Backdating' on page 26. For Housing Benefit, the maximum period your Housing Benefit claim can be backdated is 3 months if you are pensionable age and one month if you are younger than this. For Council Tax Reduction, the maximum period your Council Tax Reduction application can be backdated is 3 months if you are pensionable age and six months if you are younger than this.

#### **Disputes**

If you disagree with any decision that we make about your benefit or reduction, you can ask us to look at the decision again. You should put this request in writing, and send it to the Revenues and Benefits Office immediately, explaining why you think we have got it wrong - give as much detail as you can.

#### **Second Adult Reduction**

Even if your income or capital is too high for you to apply for Council Tax Reduction yourself, you could still get Second Adult Reduction. To qualify, you must be the only person in your home responsible for paying Council Tax, and someone else must live with you who is not your partner, is on a low income and does not pay rent to you. If you want to apply for Second Adult Reduction, you only need to fill in sections B and J, provide proof and sign the declaration in section P.

#### Changes in your circumstances

You must notify our staff at our office, shown on page 1, about any changes in your circumstances. There is a list of things you must tell us about at the back of this form. It is not a full list. If you are not sure please contact us. For Housing Benefit, if you do not tell us about the change happening you will lose benefit.

#### Why do we need so much detail?

Do not be put off by the length of this form. We are sorry to ask so many questions, but we do need you to answer in full so that we can be sure that we make the correct reduction or payment. For example, if you receive an allowance for a disability, it could mean that you can get more benefit

or reduction. You may also be entitled to more benefit or reduction to help you pay childcare costs to a registered childminder while you are working, but only if you tell us about them. If you are finding it difficult to fill in this form or to send us proof and you need some help, please phone our Revenues and Benefits Office on 03000 200 292 (visit the Contact Us page on our website for up to date opening hours). We can probably help you over the phone, or we can arrange for a visiting officer to see you at home.

## Disabled people and people with learning difficulties

If you need help filling in this form, or you cannot visit our office or send us the proof we need, please phone our Revenues and Benefits Office on 03000 200 292 (visit the Contact Us page on our website for up to date opening hours). We can probably help you over the phone, but we can also arrange for a visiting officer to see you at home.

#### Don't delay

You will see reminders on the form that you must send us original documents, not photocopies, and that we cannot process your claim or application until we have seen all of the documents. We understand that it is not always easy to get them to us straight away, so even if you haven't got everything, send us the form. If you don't you could lose benefit or reduction.

#### **Discretionary Housing Payments**

The British Government has introduced the Benefit Cap & the Social Sector Size Criteria (SSSC) ('bedroom tax' or 'spare room subsidy'). The Benefit Cap restricts the amount of Housing Benefit/Universal Credit you may receive. The SSSC results in a reduction of 14% or 25% in the amount of Housing Benefit/Universal Credit(housing element) awarded for those considered to be living in a home that is too big for their needs. However, the Scottish Government is providing councils with extra funding as part of the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) scheme. This extra funding is intended to reduce the effect the Benefit Cap & the SSSC has on your Housing Benefit/Universal Credit award. However, you must make a claim for DHP before it can be awarded to you. You can use this form to claim any shortfall caused by the Benefit Cap or SSSC. If you want to claim DHP for any shortfall not caused by the Benefit Cap or SSSC, you must fill in a separate claim form. To ask for a DHP claim form, please call 03000 200 292 (visit the Contact Us page on our website for up to date opening hours).

#### Council Tax Bands E to H relief

From April 2017, national legislation was introduced which changed the Council Tax multipliers in bands E to H. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been amended to provide targeted relief from the increase in the multiplier. The maximum relief that can be awarded under this provision is equivalent to the difference between your Council Tax bill calculated using the old multiplier and the new multiplier. Whether you are entitled to relief depends on a number of factors. However, if you live in a single-person household with a net income of up to £16,750 or another type of household with a net income up to £25,000, and you have less than £16,000 in savings and no non-dependants, you may qualify for maximum relief.



Most working age people who are out of work or on a low income are no longer able to claim Housing Benefit to help with their housing costs (rent). Instead, they must claim help for housing costs via Universal Credit.

However, if you fall into one or more of the following 5 categories you can still claim Housing Benefit. You will be requested to provide evidence that you satisfy the criteria selected.

Please	e tick ALL criteria boxes you satisfy and complete the remaining form.
	I am single and have reached pension age. I wish to claim Housing Benefit and apply for Council Tax Reduction, if applicable.
	My partner and I have both reached pension age. I wish to claim Housing Benefit and apply for Council Tax Reduction, if applicable.
	I am part of a couple, one of us has reached pension age and we were in receipt of state pension credit (as a couple) before 15 May 2019. I wish to claim Housing Benefit and apply for Council Tax Reduction, if applicable.
	I live in temporary accommodation which was arranged by the council or registered housing association because I was or was at risk of being homeless (B&Bs, hotel room etc). I wish to claim Housing Benefit and apply for Council Tax Reduction, if applicable.
	I live in specified (Supported) accommodation. I wish to claim Housing Benefit and apply for Council Tax Reduction, if applicable. This type of accommodation includes accommodation:
	<ul> <li>where you are provided with care, support or supervision by your landlord or by someone else to help you live there independently;</li> </ul>
	• used as temporary accommodation for people who have left their home because of domestic violence.
	If you are not sure if your property is classed as specified accommodation, contact your landlord for confirmation.
	I do not satisfy any of the above criteria. I am not entitled to claim Housing Benefit but wish to apply for Council Tax Reduction, if applicable. I will immediately contact the Department for Work and Pensions and claim Universal Credit for help with my housing costs. I recognise a delay in applying for Universal Credit can result in rent arrears.

#### WHAT IS PENSION AGE/WORKING AGE?

You are treated as pension age if both you and your partner, if applicable, have reached the earliest age you can start to receive your State Pension. You can check what this age is by using the following link www.gov.uk/state-pension-age

You are treated as working age if either you or your partner, if applicable, have not reached pension age.

## Please provide the following information.

Which of the following are you? Tick one box only.		
A private tenant Livin	g in a hostel	
A housing association tenant An o	wner-occupier	
A council tenant A bo	arder	
If you are a council tenant, do you give permission for us to discuss your claim for Housing Benefit or your application for Council Tax Reduction with the Housing Department? (You can withdraw your permission at any time.)		
You and your partner If you do not have a partner, tick this box.		
You	Your partner	
Surname	Surname	
Other name	Other name	
Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss or other)	Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss or other)	
National Insurance number	National Insurance number	
Date of birth / /	Date of birth / /	
Please tell us if you use another name, or are known by another name.	Please tell us if you use another name, or are known by another name.	
Address you want to claim or apply for	Address you want to claim or apply for	
Postcode	Postcode	
Email address	Email address	
Phone number	Phone number	
Mohile number	Mobile number	

You	Your partner
What date did you move to this address?	What date did you move to this address?
Do you own the man out of	Do you give the property?
Do you own the property?	Do you own the property?
Yes No	Yes No
Ava vava a jajost avyo av av jajost tamant?	Are your inject ourselves or inject toward?
Are you a joint owner or joint tenant?	Are you a joint owner or joint tenant?
16 /Voc/b o;+b2	If 'Yes', who with?
If 'Yes', who with?	ii fes, who with:
William I and I a	NA/L (
What was your last address?	What was your last address?
Did you own that property?	Did you own that property?
Yes No	Yes No

You	Your partner
Did you rent that property?	Did you rent that property?
Yes No	Yes No
Were you living with relatives at that address?	Were you living with relatives at that address?
Yes No	Yes No
Did you claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit or apply for Council Tax Reduction at your last address?	Did you claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit or apply for Council Tax Reduction at your last address?
Yes No	Yes No
Do you fall into any of the following categories? Tick all that apply.	Do you fall into any of the following categories? Tick all that apply.
Have a severe learning disability, mental illness or form of dementia	Have a severe learning disability, mental illness or form of dementia
A student	A student
In legal custody	In legal custody
Date you went into legal custody:	Date you went into legal custody:
A Care Leaver under 26	A Care Leaver under 26
An apprentice	An apprentice
On a youth training course  Registered blind	On a youth training course  Registered blind
In hospital	In hospital
Date you went into hospital:	Date you went into hospital:
	·
Overnight carers	Overnight carers
Do you receive overnight care?	Do you receive overnight care?
Yes No	Yes No
If 'Yes', who provides the overnight care?	If 'Yes', who provides the overnight care?
Do the overnight carers have a bedroom they can use while providing overnight care?	Do the overnight carers have a bedroom they can use while providing overnight care?
Yes No	Yes No
Do the overnight carers normally live with you?	Do the overnight carers normally live with you?
Yes No	Yes No
If 'No', please provide their address	If 'No', please provide their address

Please send original documents as proof of your identity and National Insurance number.

Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim or application. Do not send your own photocopies.

### What is your Nationality?

	You	Your partner
What is your nationality?		
Did you arrive or return to live in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man in the last 5 years?	Yes No	Yes No
If "Yes", what date did you arrive in the UK?		
Expected Length of Stay?		
Reason for stay?		
Please tick if you or your partner satisfy any of the	he following categories:-	
Immigration Status	You	Your partner
British Citizen		
A citizen of a commonwealth country with a Right of Abode		
Has settled status or indefinite leave		
Has limited leave or pre-settled status		
Are you an asylum seeker?		
Has been granted refugee status		
Has been granted humanitarian protection		
Has been granted discretionary leave to remain		
Has been granted temporary leave under the Destitution Domestic Violence rules		
Awarded leave to enter or remain in the UK as a sponsored immigrants, as a result of a written maintenance undertaking		
Permission as a relevant Afghan/Ukrainian/ other Resettlement/Relocation/Sponsorship Scheme		
Have you applied for a Variation of Leave Order		

#### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

To prove your immigration status you must provide one of the following:-

#### SHARE CODE:

Most people now apply on-line for visas or the EU Settlement Scheme (settled or pre-settled status). You can view your immigration status online and share this evidence with the local authority by providing the immigration status "share code" you receive from the Home Office. The local authority can use the "share code" to gain on-line access to your immigration status.

Further information on how you can view your immigration status online and how you can share this with the local authority can be found at: <a href="www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status">www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status</a> Once you have followed this link, select the green button titled "Start Now" and follow the instructions provided. You can then immediately send the share code you receive to the local authority.

Please provide a share code for you and your partner.

	You	Your Partner
Share Code		

#### PHYSICAL DOCUMENTS:

Anyone who has not applied on-line, can provide physical documents showing their immigration status. This can be found in a passport, a letter from the Home Office, a "vignette" (sticker) in their passport or a biometric residence permit. Physical documents cannot be used as proof of the immigration status if they have the following wording or something similar: "is not proof of your status and cannot be used to prove your status to others".

#### • IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT NUMBER:

If you are unable to provide a share code or physical documents, we may be able to obtain evidence of your immigration status if you provide the identification document number of the identification document you provided to the Home Office. Please provide the document number for you and your partner:-

Identification Document	You	Your Partner
Passport Number:		
National Identity Card Number:		
Biometric Residency Card:		
Biometric Residency Permit:		



If you are applying for Second Adult Reduction only, go to section J. 'See page 3 for explanation.'

You	Your partner
Are you in paid employment?	Are you in paid employment?
Yes No If 'No', go to section D.  If 'Yes', please give details below.	Yes No If 'No', go to section D.  If 'Yes', please give details below.
Employer's name and address	Employer's name and address
When did you start this job?	When did you start this job?
Is your job seasonal or temporary?	Is your job seasonal or temporary?
Yes No	Yes No
If 'Yes', when will it end?	If 'Yes', when will it end?
How many hours a week do you work?	How many hours a week do you work?
How much are you paid after tax and National Insurance?	How much are you paid after tax and National Insurance?
£	£
How often are you paid (for example, every week, every two weeks or every month)?	How often are you paid (for example, every week, every two weeks or every month)?

You	Your partner
How are you being paid (for example in cash, into a bank account)?	How are you being paid (for example in cash, into a bank account)?
Do you regularly work overtime?	Do you regularly work overtime?
Yes No	Yes No
Do you receive any bonuses, tips or commission?  Yes No	Do you receive any bonuses, tips or commission?  Yes No
Do you pay into a works pension scheme?	Do you pay into a works pension scheme?
Yes No	Yes No
D	D
Do you pay into a private pension scheme?	Do you pay into a private pension scheme?
Yes No	Yes No
Do you have more than one job?	Do you have more than one job?
Yes No	Yes No
If 'Yes', please give details below.	If 'Yes', please give details below.
Employer's name and address	Employer's name and address

Please send **original** proof of earnings for you and your partner, if you have one. See the checklist for examples of documents you can provide.

Remember, you must send **original** documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or your application for Council Tax Reduction. Do not send your own photocopies.

Have you declared everything? Do you know someone who has not?

**Benefit Fraud Hotline** — phone 0800 854 440

Are you or your partner self-employed?	If 'No', go to section E. If 'Yes', please give details below.
Yes No	We may need to write to you for more information.
You	Your partner
What is the name of your business?	What is the name of your business?
What is the registered address of your business?	What is the registered address of your business?
Business phone number	Business phone number
What type of business do you run?	What type of business do you run?
When did you start trading?	When did you start trading?
Do you have up-to-date audited accounts? Yes No If 'Yes', what period do they cover?	Do you have up-to-date audited accounts? Yes No If 'Yes', what period do they cover?
When does the business's financial year start?	When does the business's financial year start?
What is your estimated weekly profit?	What is your estimated weekly profit?
£	£
How many hours each week do you work?	How many hours each week do you work?
Are you a partner in the business?	Are you a partner in the business?
Yes No	Yes No
Are you a director in the business?	Are you a director in the business?
Yes No	Yes No
Do you pay into a pension scheme?	Do you pay into a pension scheme?
Yes No	Yes No

Please send **original** proof of self-employed earnings for you and your partner if you have one. See the checklists for examples of documents you can provide.

Remember, you must send **original** documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction. Do not send your own photocopies.



If you receive Income Support, income-related Employment and Supp	ort Allowance	, income-bas	ed
Jobseeker's Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit), please tick	k this box.		

Please answer all questions and fill in all parts of each section. If you do not fill in all parts, your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction may be delayed.

If you do receive any of the benefits listed below, please tell us how much you get and how often you receive payment (for example, every week, every two weeks, every four weeks or every month).

	Yo	u	Your p	Your partner			
	How much do you get?	How often is it paid?	How much do you get?	How often is it paid?			
Adult Disability Payment							
(care component)							
Adult Disability Payment (mobility component)							
Armed Forces Independence Payment							
Attendance Allowance							
Bereavement Allowance							
Child Benefit							
Child Tax Credit							
Compensation from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme							
Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance							
Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance							
Disability Living Allowance (care component)							
Disability Living Allowance (mobility component)							
Fostering Allowance							
Guardian's Allowance							
Incapacity Benefit							
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit							
Life insurance annuities							
Maintenance you receive (including payments from the Child Support Agency and any other money you receive for yourself or your children)							
Maternity Allowance							
Payments from a charity or other voluntary payments							
Payments from boarders							
Pension Credit (Savings Credit)							
Personal Independence Payment - Daily Living Component							
Personal Independence Payment - Mobility Component							

		Yo	ou	Your pa	rtner
		How much do you get?	How often is it paid?	How much do you get?	How often is it paid?
Severe Disablement Allowance					
State Pension					
Statutory Maternity Pay (start date)					
Statutory Sick Pay (start date)					
Universal Credit					
War Disablement Pension					
War Widow's or War Widower's Pension					
Weekly amount from letting or subletti	ng part				
of a property					
Widowed Parent's Allowance					
Working Tax Credit					
Youth training scheme payment or train credits	ning				
creares					
Any other income (please give details)					
Carer's Allowance					
Who do you receive it for?	Name				
	Address				
	/ taaress				



Does anyone receive Carer's Allowance to look after you?  Yes  No	
If 'Yes', what is their name?	
What is their address?	
Have you or your partner recently applied for any benefits or income, but not yet received payment?  Yes No	
Please tell us which benefits or income you are waiting for.	
What date did you apply for it?	

## F

## Occupational, private, superannuation, work pensions

	You	ı	Your partner			
			How much do you get?	How often is it paid?		
Occupational, private, superannuation or work pensions?						
Have you delayed getting one or more occupational, private, superannuation or work pensions?	Yes	No	Yes	No		
If 'Yes', when are they due to be paid?						
Have you started to withdraw money from your occupational, private, superannuation or work pensions?	Yes	No	Yes	No		

Please send **original** proof of income for you and your partner, if you have one.

See the checklist for examples of documents you can provide.

Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction.

Do not send your own photocopies.

Have you declared everything? Do you know someone who has not?

**Benefit Fraud Hotline — Phone 0800 854 440** 



Are you or your partner a student?	If 'No', go to section H.			
Yes No	If 'Yes', please give details below.			
You	Your partner			
Are you studying:	Are you studying:			
full-time? part-time?	full-time? part-time?			
Name of college or university	Name of college or university			
Address of college or university	Address of college or university			
Title of course	Title of course			
Length of course	Length of course			
Which year of study are you in?	Which year of study are you in?			
1st 2nd 3rd 4th	1st 2nd 3rd 4th			
What date does your current year of study start?  What date does your current year of study end?	What date does your current year of study start?  What date does your current year of study end?			
What is your matriculation number (if you know this)?	What is your matriculation number (if you know this)?			
Do you receive a student grant, bursary or loan?	Do you receive a student grant, bursary or loan?			
Yes No	Yes No			

You	Your partner
If 'Yes', how much is paid?	If 'Yes', how much is paid?
£	£
How often is it paid?	How often is it paid?
·	·
How much student loan are you entitled to?	How much student loan are you entitled to?
£	£
Are you on a sandwich course?  Yes No	Are you on a sandwich course?  Yes No
Do you receive sponsorship?	Do you receive sponsorship?
Yes No	Yes No
Do you receive money from your parents?  Yes No	Do you receive money from your parents?  Yes No
Do you have any other income?	Do you have any other income?
Yes No If 'Yes', please give details below.	Yes No If 'Yes', please give details below.

Please send **original** proof of income for you and your partner, if you have one.

See the checklist for examples of documents you can provide.

Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction.

Do not send your own photocopies.



## Cash, savings and investments

You need to tell us about all your bank accounts, building-society accounts and Post Office accounts (even if they are overdrawn), and all other cash and investments.

Type of capital	Type of bank or building-society account				
	(for example, current or savings)		You	Your partner	Both
Bank account					
Bank account					
Building-society account					
Building-society account					
Post Office account					
Cash savings					
Premium Bonds					
Do you jointly ow not your partner	vn any of the above accounts witl ?	n anyone who is	Yes	No	
If 'Yes', please pro	ovide details.				
If 'Yes', please pro	ovide details.				
	ovide details.	Amount held			
If 'Yes', please pro	Details (for example, share names, certificate numbers)	Amount held	Vou	In the name of	Poth
	Details (for example, share names,	Amount held	You	In the name of Your partner	Both
	Details (for example, share names, certificate numbers or issue numbers)	Amount held	You		Both
Type of capital  National Savings	Details (for example, share names, certificate numbers or issue numbers)	Amount held	You		Both
National Savings Bonds	Details (for example, share names, certificate numbers or issue numbers)	Amount held	You		Both
National Savings Bonds  National Savings Certificates	Details (for example, share names, certificate numbers or issue numbers)	Amount held	You		Both



## Cash, savings and investments (continued)

Do you or your partner have any other savings or investments, or money owing to you, which have not been included in the list above (for example, PEPs, ISAs, personal loans or cryptocurrencies)?'
If 'Yes', please provide details.
Yes No
Do you or your partner own another property?
If 'Yes', please provide details.
Do you ar your partner or any of your shildren have any Yes No
Do you or your partner, or any of your children, have any money or property held in trust?
If 'Yes', please give details. We may ask you for more information.

Please send **original** proof of savings and investments for you and your partner, if you have one. You must send us current statements showing all transactions for the last two months. We will not accept mini-statements.

Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction.

Do not send your own photocopies.

Have you declared everything? Do you know someone who has not?

**Benefit Fraud Hotline — Phone 0800 854 440** 

### Children who live with you

f there are no children who live with you, tick this box. Now go to section J.  Do you or your partner receive Child Benefit for any children who									
live with you?	.niia be	enem	tor any (	CNII	aren wno	Yes		No	
		First c	hild		Second	child		Thire	l child
Surname									
Other names									
Date of birth		/	/		/	/		/	/
What is their relationship to you?									
Are they male or female?									
What is their nationality?									
Are they registered blind?	Yes		No 🗌		Yes	No		Yes	No
Do they receive Disability Living Allowance?	Yes		No 🗌		Yes	No		Yes	No 🗌
Do they receive Child Disability Payment?'	Yes		No _		Yes	No		Yes	No 🗌
Do they go to a registered nursery, childminder or playscheme?	Yes		No		Yes	No		Yes	No
If 'Yes', please give the name and address of the childminder, nursery or playscheme.									
What is the weekly cost of childcare for each child?	£				£			£	
If they are not a British citizen, when did they arrive in the UK?									
Do they attend school (primary and upwards)?	Yes		No		Yes	No _		Yes	No
If 'Yes', please give the name and address of the school.									
Any other information.									

For each child, please send original documents as proof of Child Benefit, any childcare costs (for example, the costs of sending your child to a nursery or childminder), Disability Living Allowance, Child Disability Payment and blind registration certificate.

Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction.

Do not send your own photocopies.



## Other people who live with you

Apart from you, your partner and y home?	our depend	dent childre	en, does any	one else liv	ve with you	in your		
Yes No If'No',	go to sectio	n K.						
If 'Yes', please give details below. Yo					u no longer	get Child		
Benefit for, friends, relatives, boarders, subtenants and joint tenants.								
Section J(a)	First p	erson	Second	person	Third p	erson		
Surname								
Other name or names								
Date of birth								
National Insurance number								
Date they moved in								
What is their relationship to you?								
If you only have joint tenants with	you, go to s	ection J.						
Section J(b)								
Are they a joint tenant or joint owner?	Yes	No	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No		
Do they pay rent to you?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
	£		£		£			
If 'Yes', how much and how often?	per		per		per			
Does the rent include payment for meals?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No		
Does their rent include payment for heating or hot water?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No		
Do they receive Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) or Pension Credit (Savings Credit)?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Do they receive contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No		
Do they receive Universal Credit?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No		
Do they get Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Do they receive Adult Disability Payment?'	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Do they get Personal Independence Payments?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No		



### Other people who live with you (continued)

	Firs	st person	Second	person	Third p	erson
Do they get any other state benefits?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌
If 'Yes', which ones do they receive and how much do they get each week?						
Do they work?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
If 'Yes', how many hours do they work each week?						
What are their earnings before tax and National Insurance?						
If 'Yes', please give details and the amounts.						
Do they get Armed Forces Independence Payments?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No
If 'Yes', how much do they get each week?						
Do they have any other income?	Yes	No _	Yes	No	Yes	No
If 'Yes', how much do they get each week?						
Are they in prison?	Yes	No	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No
If 'Yes', what date were they sentenced?						
Do they have a severe disability, mental illness or form of dementia?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No
Are they an apprentice?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Are they a student?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No
Do they care for someone in your home?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No
Are they on a youth training course (for example, YTT or Skillseekers)?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No
Are they a Care Leaver under 26?	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌	Yes	No 🗌

For each person that lives with you, please send original documents for any income that they have and any rent that they pay you.

Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction.

Do not send your own photocopies.



You should only fill in section K, L and M if you rent your property from a private landlord or housing association AND can apply for Housing Benefit as you meet one of the specific criteria set out in page 4. If you are a council tenant or an owner-occupier, go to section N

When did your tenancy start at your current address?					
Are you a shared owner of the pro	Yes		No		
Are you the co-owner of the property?				No	
Have you owned the property in	the last five years?	Yes		No	
If 'Yes', why did you sell it?					
What is your landlord's name?					
What is your landlord's home address?					
What is your landlord's phone number?					
If someone else manages the property for your landlord, what is their name?					
What is their address?					
What is their phone number?					
Are any of the children in the houthe landlord or their partner?	sehold related to	Yes		No	
If 'Yes', who is related and what is	the relationship?				
Are you or any other member of y related to your landlord?	our household	Yes		No	
If 'Yes', please say what the relatio	nship is.				
Has your landlord been your part at any time?	ner at this address	Yes		No	
Has your partner been your landl address at any time?	ord's partner at this	Yes		No	
Have you signed a tenancy agreement?		Yes		No	
How long is it for?	months				
What kind of tenancy is it?					
Assured Short assured	Other				Don't know
Do you give us permission to discuss your claim or application with your landlord? (You can withdraw your permission at any time.)  Yes  No					

Please send **original** documents as proof of rent that you pay (for example, lease, tenancy agreement, or a letter from your landlord). Remember, you must send original documents, otherwise we will not process your claim for Housing Benefit or application for Council Tax Reduction.

Do not send your own photocopies.

### **Your home**

You should only fill in this section if you pay rent to a private landlord or housing association. If you are a council tenant, or an owner-occupier, go to section N.

Please tick <b>one</b> box the best describes your ho		e number of each type em.	e of room in your	home
Type of property		How many in the whole property?	How many are only used by you and your family?	How many do you share with other people?
Detached	Living room			
Semi-detached	Bedrooms			
Terraced	Bedsit rooms			
Bungalow	Kitchens			
Maisonette	Bathrooms			
Flat in a block	Toilets			
Flat in a shop	Other rooms			
Flat over a shop	(please give details)			
Studio flat	How many floor	rs are there in the w	hole building?	
Bedsit			_	
Room				
Caravan				
Other (please give				
details)				
If you rent a room, ple	ease tell us the room nu	mber.		
Do you share a room with anyone?	Yes No	Is there centra heating in you	YES	No
Does your landlord live in the property?	Yes No	Do you have garage?	Yes	No 🗌
ls your accommodation:	fully furnished?	Who is respondecorating the of your home	e inside Landlo	
Do you have double glazing?	Yes No	Do you have a garden?	Yes	No 🗌
If you are aged under 3	5, have you ever lived in a	homeless hostel?	Yes	No
If so, please give the not the hostel and the cothere.				
Are you currently mana Public Protection Arran	iged under the Multi Agei gements (MAPPA)?	ncy	Yes	No 🗌
scheme because you or	ditional security installed r a member of your family omestic violence or abuse	have been a victim	Yes	No 🗌

How much rent does your landlord charge you?
Is this every:
day? week? two weeks? four weeks? month?  Do you pay in advance (for example, for the week or month to come)?  Do you pay in advance (for example, for the week or month just gone)?
Who do you pay rent to?
Do you have any rent-free weeks?  Yes  No
If 'Yes', when are they?
Are meals included in your rent?  Yes  No
If 'Yes', which ones (tick as appropriate)? Breakfast Lunch Evening meal
Are you behind with your rent?  Yes No How many weeks do you owe?
What is the total amount of your rent arrears?
Does the rent you pay include charges for any of the following? If 'Yes', please tell us how much (if you know). We may write to you for more details.  Yes No Amount Yes No Amount
Council Tax Heating (of your rooms)
Hot water Fuel for cooking  Laundry Lighting
Garage General counselling
Cleaning rooms and windows Cleaning
Emergency alarm system
Has your rent for your home been registered by the Rent Officer?
Do you want your Housing Benefit to be paid to your landlord? (Housing association tenants only)  No

Please remember that we can only pay Housing Benefit to your landlord in exceptional circumstances. For more information, phone us on 03000 200 292 (visit the Contact Us page on our website for up to date opening hours).

We pay Housing Benefit by Bacs (bank transfer) direct into your bank account. Please give us your account details below.

Your name and address	Name the account is in
	Branch sort code
Postcode	
Name and address of your bank or building society	Bank or building society account number
Postcode	

## N

## **Backdating**

We can usually pay your benefit or award your reduction from the Monday after the day we receive your claim or application. Sometimes we can pay benefit or award your reduction from an earlier date, if you have a good reason for not claiming or applying earlier. If you want us to consider paying your benefit or awarding your reduction from an earlier date, tell us when you want your benefit or reduction from and why you did not claim or apply earlier.

For Housing Benefit, the maximum period your Housing Benefit Claim can be backdated is 3 months if you are pensionable age and one month if you are younger than this. For Council Tax Reduction, the maximum period your Council Tax Reduction application can be backdated is 3 months if you are pensionable age and six months if you are younger than this. For more information visit www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/StatePension/DG\_4017919

Date you want to claim benefit or apply for your reduction from	/	/
Have your circumstances changed since this date (see page 29)?	Yes	No

Tell us why you have not claimed for benefit or applied for your reduction before.



#### **Educational Benefits and other assistance**

From the information provided on this form we will assess your entitlement to Educational Benefits.
Where you qualify we will automatically make an award. We will also use the information to support any
claims made for Educational Maintenance Allowance for the household.

If you do NOT want to claim please tick this box



#### **Declaration**

Please read and sign the declaration below. Fill in the checklist and return the form to us in the envelope provided. You must also send original documents so we can process, if applicable, your claim/application for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payments.

If you do not have all your evidence, you must return the form as soon as you can and send the evidence later. If you do not send the form immediately, you may lose benefit or reduction.

Please read this declaration carefully before you sign and date it. If you do not sign it, we will have to send the form back to you and this will delay your claim or application. Where the declaration says 'l', 'me' or 'my', this refers to you and your partner (if you have one).

#### I understand the following.

- It is a criminal offence to provide information that is incorrect or incomplete.
- It is a criminal offence if I fail to tell Revenues and Benefits about a change of circumstances.
- Revenues and Benefits will use the information I have provided to process, if applicable, my claim/application for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payments. Revenues and Benefits may check the information with other departments within the council and other councils.
- Revenues and Benefits will use the information I have provided to assess and award any entitlement I have to Educational Benefits and to support any claims made for Educational Maintenance Allowance for the household.
- Revenues and Benefits may use any information I have provided in connection with this
  and any other claim for state benefits that I have made or may make. Revenues and Benefits
  may give information to other government organisations, including private agencies who
  are working for the Government to detect fraud. Revenues and Benefits will only share
  information if the law allows this.

I know I must let the Revenues and Benefits section know about any changes in my circumstances which might affect my award of Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payments.

I have read **page 28** and understand how Revenues and Benefits may use the information I have provided.

I have read **page 29** and understand what a change in circumstances is.

I want to claim Discretionary Housing Payments to cover any shortfall in my Housing Benefit/ Universal Credit award caused by the Benefit Cap or the Social Sector Size Criteria ('bedroom tax' or 'spare room subsidy') rules.

1 <b>£</b> : + ++	l : 1		I		£ : £		-
I CONTIRM THAT T	na ini	rormation i	nave diven di	n this	form is correct and	COMPLET	Δ
I COIIIIII HIAL L		Officialion	Have divelled	1 (1113	IOIIII IS COITECT AITA	COLLIDIC	٠.

Signature of person claiming or applying	Date	/	/

## Declaration (continued)

Name of the person filling in the form (if this is not the person claiming or applying)				
Your relationship to the person claiming or applying				
Signature of the person				
filling in the form (if this is not the person claiming	Date	/	/	
or applying)				

If you have someone acting on your behalf, please provide evidence of their authority to do so or provide written permission for them to act on your behalf.

### **Benefit fraud**

We are committed to tackling benefit fraud. If you think someone is committing fraud, please help us to stop them. Please phone our confidential hotline on 0800 854 440 or visit www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud

#### How we collect and use information

**Your data** - Information you provide as part of your application for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction is processed by Aberdeen City Council in accordance with Data Protection legislation. In addition to the information you provide, we may receive information about you from, and share information about you with the DWP, HMRC and other organisations to administer your application and to prevent and detect fraud. We may share also your information internally for specified lawful purposes as permitted by the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

Section 2A of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 (as amended) allows us to share the information you provide for data-matching purposes to prevent and detect fraud and as directed by Audit Scotland. This is called the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). An explanation of how we will use this information is available at: <a href="https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/our-work/counter-fraud#nfi">www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/our-work/counter-fraud#nfi</a>

More information about how we use and manage your information is available on our website at: <a href="https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data/privacy-notices/your-data-housing-benefit-and-council-tax-reduction">www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data/privacy-notices/your-data-housing-benefit-and-council-tax-reduction</a>. This page also has links to further information about your rights, and who to contact if you have a complaint about how we use your data.

#### Changes you must tell us about

We will assess, if applicable, your claim/application for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Benefit using the information you have given to us. You must tell us straight away if there are any changes to your circumstances. Here are some examples of changes you must report.

- A child leaves school or leaves home.
- You have a baby.
- Your child starts or stops being cared for by a registered childminder, nursery or playgroup, or the number of hours they are cared for changes.
- Someone moves into or out of your home (including boarders and subtenants).
- You start or stop receiving Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).
- You or your partner start or stop receiving Universal Credit.
- Your income, or the income of anyone living with you, goes up or down.
- You, or anyone living with you, become a student or take up a government training scheme.
- You, or anyone living with you, go into hospital or a nursing home, or go into prison (even if this is on remand).
- You, or anyone living with you, get a job, change job, change hours or become unemployed.
- You, or anyone living with you, take a second job.
- Your Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit changes.
- You return to work after a period of illness you have been receiving benefit for.
- You, or anyone living with you, have a change in capital or savings.
- Your rent changes or you start or stop being a joint tenant.
- You move (even if you only move to a different room or flat within the same property).
- You move out of your property, even if this is temporary.
- Someone starts to receive Carer's Allowance for looking after you.
- You change the bank account that we are paying your Housing Benefit into.
- The Benefit Cap or Social Sector Size Criteria (SSSC) ('bedroom tax' or 'spare room subsidy) stops being applied to you or your partner's Universal Credit award
- Anything at all which is different from what you have told us on this form.
- You change the bank account that we are paying your Housing Benefit into
- the Benefit Cap or Social Sector Size Criteria (SSSC) ('bedroom tax' or 'spare room subsidy) stops being applied to you or your partner's Universal Credit award.
- Anything at all which is different from what you have told us on this form.

#### Checklist

Have you answered every question? Have you signed the declaration? Have you enclosed the following original documents for you and your partner? Proof of National Insurance number (for new claims or Does not To follow Yes apply applications only) One item for each of you, such as a P45 or P60 from last employer, National Insurance card, printed payslips, letter from the Department for Work and Pensions or Jobcentre Plus, a letter or tax code from HM Revenue & Customs or a pension slip from an occupational pension scheme. Proof of identity (for new claims or applications only) Yes Does not To follow apply As well as one item from the list above, at least one other item for each of you from the following. Up-to-date driving licence, passport, gas, electricity or water bill, bank statements, birth or marriage certificates, divorce papers, a medical card, residence permit or a letter from the Home Office, a probation officer, a solicitor, a social worker or HM Revenue & Customs. Proof of earnings (for each of you) Yes Does not To follow apply Your last two (if you are paid monthly), three (if you are paid fortnightly) or five (if you are paid weekly) payslips, a detailed letter from your employer or a filled-in certificate of earnings. Proof of self-employed earnings (for each of you) To follow Yes Does not apply Most recent accounts, bank statements or a form for self-employed people – ask us for this if you need one. To follow Proof of benefits, pensions or allowances (for each of you) Yes Does not apply Current award letters from the DWP or other pension provider. Proof of any other income Does not To follow Yes apply Include student grants or loans. Proof of savings and investments (for each of you) Yes Does not To follow apply Bank, building-society and Post Office account statements or passbooks for the last two months. For all other investments and capital, please provide certificates or other documents.

#### **Checklist**

Proof of rent – private tenants and housing association tenants only	Yes	Does not apply	To follow
Tenancy agreement, letter from landlord or agent, rent book. Include any proof you have of service charges.			
Proof of income, capital and savings for all non-dependants	Yes	Does not apply	To follow
These are the people entered in the section 'Other people who normally live with you'.			
Proof of payments to a registered childminder	Yes	Does not apply	To follow
Proof of payments to a pension scheme	Yes	Does not apply	To follow
Except those you make through your employer (these will show on your payslips).			
Proof that you are a student, details of your course and evidence of your loan, bursary and grant	Yes	Does not apply	To follow
If you do not have all the proof to hand, do not delay in sending or bringing this form to our office as you could lose Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction. You can bring missing proof later.			
		_	

We cannot accept photocopies, but please do not send valuable documents through the post.

If you need more time to provide any of the information or proof, then please ask us in writing and tell us the date when you think you can provide the information and proof we need.

## This document is available in various formats and languages.

If you want this document translated into another language or format (including Braille, large print, audio disk or BSL DVD) please contact us via email or telephone number listed below.

Jeżeli ten dokument jest wymagany w innej wersji językowej lub formacie (w dużym druku lub na dyskietce audio) proszę się skontaktować z

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه الوثيقة مترجمة إلى لغة أخرى أو بشكل آخر (مثلا بالخط العريض أو القرص السمعي) فالرجاء الإتصال:

Если Вы хотите получить этот документ, переведенным на другой язык или в другом формате (крупным шрифтом или на звуковом диске), пожалуйста, свяжитесь по

Jei jūs norite susipažinti su šiuo dokumentu jūsų kalba ar gauti jį kitokiame formate (Didelėmis raidėmis ar audio diską), prašau susisiekite

Dacă doriți ca acest document să fie tradus într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format (scris mare sau format audio), vă rugăm contactați

如果你需要把文件翻译成另一种语言或者把文件变成 另一种格式(大号字体或声盘),请通过以下的邮件 或电话方式联系我们。

Ma tha thu ag iarraidh eadar-theangachadh den sgrìobhainn seo ann an cànan neo cruth eile (clò mòr neo clàr claistinneach) feuch an cuir thu fios gu

If you are deaf or have a hearing impairment, you can still communicate with the Council via Text Relay by dialling 18001 + telephone number:

03000 200 292



