

Discretionary Housing Payment Explained



What is a Discretionary Housing Payment?



If you don't have enough money to pay your rent, we might be able to help.



You might be entitled to a **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)**.



Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) This is an additional benefit given to some people who can't pay their rent.



You may be able to claim a DHP on top of your usual Housing Benefit or Universal Credit payment.

Who can claim a **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)**



Anyone who gets Housing Benefit or Universal Credit can apply if:



This does not cover the full rent.



They are behind with their rent payments.



They are at risk of being evicted.

Reasons why you may not get full Housing Benefit and need a DHP.



If you have more bedrooms than the government says you need.



If you share your house with anyone over 18 as they should help you to pay your housing costs. Even if they are family and friends.



If your income is above a certain level.



If your rent is higher than the amount allowed for Housing Benefit or Universal Credit.

How to apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

If you are struggling to pay your rent, we can help. You must be receiving Housing Benefit or Universal Credit housing costs.



[You can apply for a DHP on our website](#) or search for DHP on Sefton.gov.uk



A DHP is not to pay for:



Service charges.



Fuel or travel costs.



Other bills (such as food, water and electric).



Alarm systems like a warden alarm.



Laundry.



Nursing and personal care.

We will ask you questions about:



Income, benefits and savings.



Personal information about your savings and bank accounts.



Information about you and your family's health.



What you spend your money on. Including information about your bills, loans, debts, and other costs.



After you apply:



If you are entitled to a DHP payment, we will write to you.



We will tell you how much you will get and for how long. Normally this will be for 6 months.



You will receive the payment with your housing benefit or a payment into your bank account.



If you want, the payment can go directly to your landlord instead.



If we can't make a payment, we will tell you the reasons why.



If you do not agree with our decision, you can ask us to look at the decision again.

If your income or savings increase.



You must let us know if your financial situation gets better.



We will then review your DHP.



We might ask you to pay back any money you should not have got.



Help and advice

If you want to speak to someone else, you can get advice from the organisations below:



Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB).

0808 278 7841



National Debtline.

0808 808 4000



Money Advice Service

0300 500 5000



Step Change Debt Charity

0800 138 1111

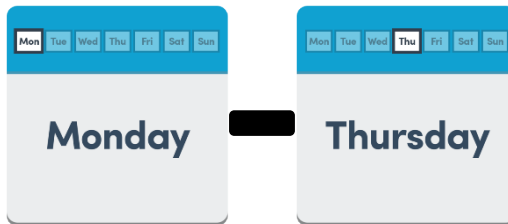
Contacting us

Please Contact Us if you need more information about applying for DHP. We can also give you information and advice on your benefits, housing and welfare.

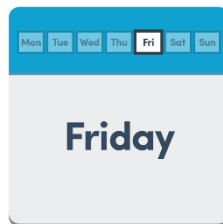


Call us on **0345 140 0845**

Monday to Thursday 9am – 5.30pm



Friday 9am – 5pm.



Or visit our website [for our contact details](#)

or [our information about welfare benefits.](#)



Please let us know if you have any access requirements, so we can help you?