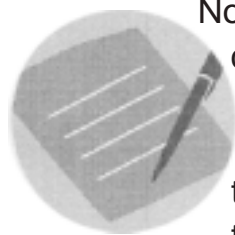


Housing Benefit -

a Quick Guide on Changes of Circumstances



Now that you are being issued confirmation of your current Housing Benefit claim, it is worth remembering a few things that might alter this decision. If there is any change in circumstances with the income of you or anyone living at your tenancy, then this will almost always affect Housing Benefit.

If you do not report any such changes, you could either lose out on benefit due to you, or face a large bill when Housing Benefit later find out that you were being paid too much. In some cases Housing Benefit will raise fraud action, if they feel that you deliberately failed to inform them of something.

What Kind of Changes Can Affect My Housing Benefit?

1. Any household changes, i.e. if anyone else moves in to live with you, or moves away. This can make changes whether the individual is a partner, a child, a friend, a relative, or a lodger etc.
2. Any change in income for you, your partner, or anyone aged 18 or over living with you.

This will apply to most types of income e.g. wages, work pensions etc.

3. If you are awarded any other benefits, such as Working or Child Tax Credit, Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, etc. Similarly if you lose any such benefit, this may change the rate of Housing Benefit due to you.
4. If you leave work due to illness, redundancy, or to commence further education etc.

Reviewing your Situation

The Council may contact you at any stage, if they need information or wish to review your claim. You must provide on time any evidence requested by the Council in order to avoid losing your claim.

You can contact Prospect if you require assistance to complete Housing Benefit forms.

Getting Advice

These are just a few of the most common situations that can change the level of Housing Benefit that is due to you. If you have any enquiries, you can phone the Council on 200 2000, and ask to speak with the Housing Benefit team for your address.

Alternatively, you can get advice in confidence by contacting Prospect's Money Advice Officer.

Informal enquiries can be made by contacting Pete Mowat direct on 272 5038.

Useful Contacts

The City of Edinburgh Council
Revenues and Benefits Department
Chesser House
500 Gorgie Road
Edinburgh
EH11 3YB
tel: 200 2000



Prospect Community
Housing
6 Westburn Avenue
Wester Hailes
Edinburgh
EH14 2TH
tel: 458 5480
fax: 453 2868
email: enquiries@
prospectch.org.uk