



Housing and Council Tax Benefit

Second Adult Rebate

Help if you receive a bill based on the full council tax charge because someone other than your partner lives in your home, and they are on low income.

This information is for guidance only. People have different circumstances, so for more detailed individual advice please contact us.

What is Second Adult Rebate?

Second adult rebate is a type of council tax benefit. It is worked out differently to main council tax benefit. Benefit is not based on your or your partner's income but on the income of other people of 18 years and over who live in your home – 'second adults'.

Second adult rebate is to help those who would have received a council tax discount if a 'second adult' were not living in the property.

Who can claim?

The basic rules for claiming second adult rebate are:

- you must be a single person, or a couple where one of you is a 'discounted person'
- there must be at least one 'second adult' living in your home
- a person living in your home is not a 'second adult' if they are:
 - under 18 years
 - a 'discounted person'
 - a joint tenant or joint owner of the property
- no one must pay you or your partner rent for living in the property.

You may claim second adult rebate even if you and your partner have capital over £16,000.

Who is a 'discounted person'?

A discounted person is someone who, for council tax purposes, does not count towards the number of adults who live in a property. For example:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and modern apprentices
- patients living in hospital or nursing homes
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at, or have just left school
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner, or child under 18
- people in prison.

If only one adult is counted as living in the property, a 25% discount may be awarded on your council tax bill. You can call the Council Tax Section on 397108 for further information.

How is Second Adult Rebate worked out?

If all the 'second adults' living with you receive, Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit your rebate will be 25% of your council tax charge.

If any 'second adults' who live with you do not receive one of these benefits, the amount of rebate depends on the gross income of these second adults. If the gross income of the other adults is less than £177.00 rebate will be 15% of the council tax charge. If the gross income of the other adults is £177.00 up to £230.99 rebate will be 7.5% of the council tax charge.

Only the gross income of any 'second adults' not on Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit, and who is not a 'discounted person' is used.

How do I apply for Second Adult Rebate?

The person liable for the Council Tax bill and **not** the second adult must claim. Call our helpline (01642) **393829** to claim.

The claim form is only to claim second adult rebate and therefore is only 4 pages long.

What happens next?

When we have made a decision we will write to you to tell you how much we will pay and how your benefit was worked out. Any rebate awarded will be taken off your council tax bill to reduce the amount you have to pay. A new bill will be sent shortly after our letter.

Reporting Changes

If you have been awarded Second Adult Rebate you must tell us of any changes that affect your benefit, such as;

- any adults moving into or leaving your home,
- a change in the income of any adults living with you, or
- if you move home.

Independent Advice

Stockton & District Advice & Information Service

Bath Lane
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 2DS

Telephone (01642) 676691

Here to help

Our staff are always happy to explain anything you do not understand or to help with any query about your benefit.

- call our helpline on (01642) **393829** or Minicom textphone (01642) 605569 (for people with hearing difficulties). Our helpline is open Monday to Thursday 8am to 6pm, Friday 8am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- call into; Thornaby Customer Service Centre, Pavilion (Library), Thornaby Town Centre, or Stockton Customer Service Centre, Church Road (Library), Stockton. We are open for callers Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm, and Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- e-mail **benefits.section@stockton.gov.uk**

For further information go to www.stockton.gov.uk/hsgben

