Non-Dependants

Who is a non-dependant?

A ‘non-dependant’ is someone aged 18 or over who lives with you as part of your family but is not your partner. Examples of non-dependants are adult sons or daughters, elderly relatives or friends.

How will my benefit or support be affected?

Normally, we take a certain amount off your weekly Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support for each non-dependant who lives with you. This amount is called a ‘non-dependant deduction’.

How much is a non-dependant deduction?

The amount we take off your benefit depends on the circumstances of the non-dependant and how much income they get.
Please ask us for more information about the amounts for non-dependant deductions.

If the non-dependant works for 16 hours or more a week, we take their gross income to work out the deduction. ‘Gross income’ means earnings before tax and national insurance are taken off. We also include any social security benefits they get, such as Child Benefit or Tax Credits, and any interest they receive on their savings. We do not include Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or certain payments from charities.

What if I don't know how much income my non-dependant receives?

If you cannot or will not tell us how much income your non-dependant receives, we have to use the information we have to decide how much to take off your Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support. This may mean that we take the highest amount allowed off your benefit.

Do you always make a deduction for a non-dependant?

We do not take anything off your benefit for a non-dependant if you or your partner are registered blind or get Attendance Allowance or the care part of Disability Living Allowance or the daily living part of Personal Independence Payments. You must still tell us straight away if a non-dependant moves into your home.

Information can be made available in other languages, or other formats such as Braille or Audio Tape, on request. Please ask a member of our staff for more information, or if you need any other help or advice. They can arrange to speak to you in your own language if you need them to.

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Also, we do not take anything off your **Housing Benefit** for the non-dependant if they:

- are under 25 and receive Income Support or income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or Assessment phase income-related Employment & Support Allowance;
- receive Pension Credit;
- are on a youth training scheme and only receive an allowance;
- usually live somewhere else;
- have been in hospital for more than 52 weeks;
- are in prison; or
- are a full-time student (but we will take an amount off during the summer holiday if your non-dependant is working).

You must tell us straight away if a non-dependant moves into your home or your non-dependant’s income or circumstances change.

We do not take anything off your **Council Tax Support** for non-dependants if they:

- receive Income Support or income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or income-related Employment & Support Allowance (any phase);
- receive Pension Credit;
- are on a youth training scheme and only receive an allowance;
- usually live somewhere else;
- have been in hospital for more than 52 weeks;
- are in prison; or
- are a full-time student.

You may not be paying full Council Tax because of the circumstances of your non-dependant, for example, if they are an apprentice or a carer. This is called a Council Tax discount. If you get this discount, we will not take anything off your Council Tax Support for the non-dependant.

You must tell us straight away if a non-dependant moves into your home or your non-dependant’s income or circumstances change.

Information can be made available in other languages, or other formats such as Braille or Audio Tape, on request. Please ask a member of our staff for more information, or if you need any other help or advice. They can arrange to speak to you in your own language if you need them to.
Special rules if you or your partner are 65 or over

If you or your partner are aged 65 or over and a non-dependant moves into your home, we will not take a deduction off your benefit or support for 26 weeks after they move in. Also if your non-dependant’s income changes and we have to take a higher deduction, we will not take the higher deduction for 26 weeks after their income changes.

You must tell us straight away if a non-dependant moves into your home or your non-dependant’s income or circumstances change.

More help and advice

This fact sheet is a guide only. We have tried to make sure that the information in this fact sheet is correct at the date published (12 May 2015), but it is possible that some of the information may now not be correct.

If you need more help and advice about Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support, please see our other fact sheets or get in touch with us.

Phone us: 01302 735336

Write to us: Doncaster Council, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support Section, Civic Offices, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

In person: Our counter at the Civic Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm.

Fax: 01302 735134
Email: housing.benefits@doncaster.gov.uk (For general enquiries)

You can also hand in forms and documents at any of the neighbourhood Customer Service Centres or St Leger Homes Area Housing offices.

You can get independent advice about your Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Information can be made available in other languages, or other formats such as Braille or Audio Tape, on request. Please ask a member of our staff for more information, or if you need any other help or advice. They can arrange to speak to you in your own language if you need them to.