



WELFARE AWARE

UNDERSTANDING AND PREPARING FOR CHANGE

BENEFIT CAP

What is the Benefit Cap?

From April 2013 there has been a limit to the total amount of money you can receive from all your benefits added together, such as Job Seekers Allowance and housing benefit.

There are different limits for people with different circumstances:

- £350 per week for single people without children,
- £500 per week for single parents, and couples with or without children.
- The government add-up all the money you get from the benefits you receive, including housing benefit. If the total amount is more than the rate that is allowed for people in your circumstances then your benefits will be reduced to that rate.
- If there is a reduction it will be taken from your housing benefit. This will be different for claimants receiving Universal Credit

Does this affect people in supported accommodation?

People living in most supported accommodation, which includes most hostels, foyers and refuges will not have their housing benefit included in the calculation of combined benefits. This means that it is unlikely that most people living in supported accommodation will be affected by the Benefit Cap.

Are there any exemptions?

You are exempt from the cap if you or someone in your household (such as your partner, a dependent or someone you are dependent on) receives any of the following benefits: Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payment), the Support Group of Employment and Support Allowance, those entitled to Working Tax Credits, and a range of war pensions.

What can I do?

There is a benefit cap calculator online at www.direct.gov.uk/benefitcap that you can use to find out how you might be affected by the cap.

Find out more about the benefit cap by phoning the government's information line:
0845 605 7064

The Government has made more money available to help people adjust to this and other benefits changes. These are called 'Discretionary Housing Payments' and you apply to the local authority/council to be considered for assistance.

Need more help?

Have a benefits 'check-up' to make sure that you are claiming the right benefits.

Talk to Citizens Advice for information on benefits, debt and money management
Tel: 08444 111 444 (England)
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

The Money Advice Service has lots of useful tools to help with understanding benefits and managing money:
www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

WHAT? The benefit cap puts a limit on the total amount of combined benefits you can receive.

WHEN? Started in 2013

WHO WILL IT AFFECT? If your total benefits go over the cap and you are not receiving a type of benefit that would make you exempt you will have your benefits reduced to the level of the cap.

www.homeless.org.uk/welfare-reform

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