



Housing &
Community Care

Restriction due to Under-Occupation





In what circumstances will people's Housing Benefit be affected due to under occupation?

From April 2013, people living in the social rented sector (defined as housing that is owned and managed by Local Authorities or Registered Social Landlords) may have their Housing Benefit reduced if they have one or more bedrooms above their housing need.

Housing Benefit will only be paid for one bedroom for each adult (or couple) living as part of the household.

The restriction will only apply to people who are of working age. Working age is defined as aged between 16 and the minimum qualifying age for State Pension Credit.



How much will the restriction be?

Housing Benefit will be reduced by the following:

- *Under-occupation of one bedroom* 14% of the gross rent
- *Under-occupation of two or more bedrooms* 25% of the gross rent



Will there be any exceptions to the under-occupation rules?

The rules allow for housing costs to be paid in the following instances:

- *one bedroom for each adult (or couple) living in the household;*
- *a child aged under 16 will be expected to share with another child of the same gender;*
- *a child aged under 10 is expected to share with one other child aged under 10 regardless of gender;*
- *a bedroom for a **non-residential** carer is allowed where they provide overnight care to a person with a disability.*

Exceptions **will not** be made in the following instances:

- *separated parents who share care of their children;*
- *parents whose children visit but do not live with them and are not counted as part of their household;*
- *couples who use their spare bedroom when recovering from an illness or operation;*
- *foster children because they are not counted as part of the household for benefit entitlement purposes.*





Further Advice or Information

For advice and information on your Housing Benefit entitlement, contact the Housing Benefits Team:

Tel **01738 476049**

Email **HBenquiries@pkc.gov.uk**

For free, confidential and impartial advice on welfare benefits and tax credits, contact the Welfare Rights Team:

Tel **01738 476900**

Email **WelfareRights@pkc.gov.uk**

For advice and information on your housing options, contact the Housing Options Team:

Tel **01738 474500**

Email **HousingHomelessAdvice@pkc.gov.uk**

You may also want to contact your landlord or local housing office for advice or information.



If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.



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