



Application for Backdated Housing and Council Tax Benefit



About Backdated Benefit

Benefit will generally only be awarded from the Monday following the date we received your claim form or from the Monday following the date that you first told us you wished to make a claim.

However, we can sometimes pay **Backdated Benefit** for a period prior to the date you claimed, if you can show that you had a good reason or “good cause” for not being able to claim earlier. Examples of “good cause” may include the following :-

- You were ill and no one else could claim for you
- You did not understand you could claim because of your age or language difficulties
- You were not able to manage your own affairs at the time
- A close relative had died

These examples are only a guide to help you. Each case is looked at individually and a decision is made based on the personal circumstances of each customer. If you simply forgot to claim or did not know that you could claim, this would not normally be classed as “good cause” on its own.

If you are aged under 60, your claim may be backdated for up to 6 months, providing you can show continuous good cause why you did not claim earlier.

If you or your partner are aged 60 or over, your claim may be backdated for up to 3 months. You do not need to apply for backdating in these cases as your local Council’s Benefit Service will automatically check whether you qualify.

If you are a man aged 60 to 64, and are claiming Income Support or income based Job Seekers Allowance, your claim may be backdated for up to 6 months, providing you can show continuous good cause why you did not claim earlier. This exception to the rule may be subject to change in the future.

How to Claim Backdated Benefit

To make an application for backdated benefit, please complete the details overleaf. It is important that you give as much information as you can so that we are aware of all the facts when we deal with your claim.

If someone else is acting on your behalf, please provide their full name and address together with your signed authorisation that they can act for you.

See our separate leaflet (No 14) “Backdated Benefit” for further details.

