What happens if my claim for backdating is unsuccessful?

We will write to advise you of the outcome of your claim for backdating. If your claim is unsuccessful you have the right to appeal.

You must write to us within one calendar month of the date on your decision letter. See our separate leaflet (No. 5) “Understanding our decision and making an appeal.”

What if I am pensionable age?

If you or your partner are pensionable age your claim may cover any period in the 3 months before the day your claim was received.

You do not need to apply for backdating. We will automatically check whether you qualify for this.

Other leaflets available:

1. How to claim
2. Non-dependant deductions
3. Overpayments
4. Extended payments
5. Understanding our decision and making an appeal
6. Benefit on two homes
7. Benefit when you are away from home
8. Will you qualify?
9. Persons from abroad
10. When will your award start?
11. Students
12. Discretionary housing payments
13. Changes in circumstances
14. Backdated awards
15. Second adult rebate
16. Benefit fraud
17. Self-employed
18. Benefit for people who work

Contact Us

Benefit Services, Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate HG1 2SG

Phone: 01423 500600
Email: ben_rev@harrogate.gov.uk
Website: www.harrogate.gov.uk
Introduction

This guide is one of a number produced with the aim of helping customers understand Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

It is intended as a general guide. People have different circumstances so for more detailed individual advice please contact our Benefits Service.

What is backdating?

Housing Benefit and a Council Tax Reduction are usually paid from the Monday after we get your claim but in some circumstances we can pay from an earlier date.

Backdating applies to a period prior to the date that an application form is received. If you are under pension age your claim can be backdated for up to:

- 1 month from the date the claim for backdated Housing Benefit is received;
- 6 months from the date the claim for backdated Council Tax Reduction is received.

In both cases, you need to show continuous ‘good cause’ why you did not claim from an earlier date.

Some examples of ‘good cause’

- You could not have immediately claimed as you were in or just leaving hospital
- You have been ill and no-one could make a claim on your behalf
- You received wrong advice from the Benefits Service, Jobcentre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau or another official body
- You did not understand that you could claim due to your age, health, inexperience or language difficulties
- You are unable to manage your affairs but you do not have an appointee

In most circumstances we will ask you to provide evidence. For example if you were ill then we may need to see a letter from your doctor that confirms this.

There may be another reason why you could not claim from an earlier date therefore it is important that you contact us to seek further advice.

How do I request backdating?

All requests must be made in writing and you must give the reasons why you want your claim to be backdated. Contact our Benefits Service to request a backdating form. Alternatively you can download a form from our website at www.harrogate.gov.uk/Backdating

You will also need to provide proof of your income for the period you are requesting backdating. For example if you were working then we will need to see your payslips.

What happens if my claim is successfully backdated?

If you are claiming a Council Tax Reduction then the backdated award will be credited to your Council Tax account.

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit then the backdated money will be credited to your local authority rent account or sent to the person who already receives the payment. This could be you, your landlord, your appointee or a third party.