

Can my Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit be backdated?



If you wish to apply for your Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit entitlement to start from an earlier date, please complete the details below to tell us your reasons why.

When will my Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit entitlement start?

Entitlement to Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit should normally start from the Monday following receipt of a claim. This means that even if you make a claim on a Monday, any entitlement will usually start on the following Monday. However, if you or your partner are aged 60 or over and you make a claim for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit your claim may be backdated for up to 3 months. The exception to this rule is that if you make a claim within the first week of the occupancy of your home, entitlement will normally start from the date of your occupation.

Can I claim Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit from an earlier date?

Yes you may, but you must tell us, in writing, why your claim was late. We must then consider your reasons and decide if you have shown "good cause" for a late claim. In doing so we must consider other claimants of the same age, health and background as yourself and the likelihood of them acting in the same way as you in the circumstances you describe.

If your reasons are considered reasonable and apply throughout the period of time in which you did not make a claim, your benefits may be backdated for a maximum period of 6 months if you are working age or 3 months if you are pensionable age.

Your name:

Benefit reference number:

Your address:

I wish to apply for backdated Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit entitlement to: / /

My reasons for not applying for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit earlier are:

Declaration: I declare that I have given all the information relevant in relation to my claim for a backdate of my benefit entitlement.

Signed:

Date:

Please send this to:

Benefits Team

Tamworth Borough Council

Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7BZ.

Phone: 01827 709540

Fax: 01827 709464

If you need help with this form and English is not your first language, we can arrange for an interpreter to speak to you.