

Under Occupancy - Bedroom TAX

V1.0417

Under Occupancy – Bedroom Tax

Bolton Council introduced an **Under Occupancy** charge, also referred to as **Bedroom Tax** in April 2013.

This means that working age tenants who receive Housing Benefit with a spare bedroom will lose:

- **14%** of the eligible rent for one spare bedroom
- **25%** of the eligible rent for two or more spare bedrooms

For more information visit www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Housingbenefit.aspx

What if I am affected by Under Occupancy - Bedroom Tax?

If you are affected by the **Under Occupancy charge**, you have the following options:

- Stay in your current home and pay the difference on your rent.
- Move to a suitable sized home - contact our specialist Moving Options Officer – 01204 328000
- Apply for **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)** from Bolton Council.

Other people who live with you.

If there are other people, aged over 18 who live with you, they will be expected to pay towards housing costs and Council Tax.

These people are called **non dependants** and we take a set amount off your benefit for them based on their income.

For more information visit www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Housingbenefit.aspx

Discretionary Housing Payment - how to apply

Discretionary housing payment (DHP) is a way of helping you if you do not get enough benefit to pay your rent.

DHPs are short-term payments to help people with their rent if they are experiencing financial hardship.

DHPs are not Housing Benefit. However, to receive a **DHP** you must be receiving some **Housing Benefit or Universal Credit** which includes an amount for housing costs.

You can make an online claim, go to:
<http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Discretionaryhousingpayments.aspx>

Help with your DHP claim or if your claim is refused.

If you need assistance to complete your **Discretionary Housing Payment** form, you can contact our **Money Advice Team** on **01204 329868**.

If you don't agree with the decision on your **DHP** claim, you need to ring **Bolton Council** on **01204 333333** and you can ask them to review it again.

We can look at your application and advise whether you have grounds to appeal against this. If you do have grounds then we can assist you. Ring our **Money Advice Team** on **01204 329868** if you need support.