

# Local Housing Allowance

How to work it out.



## What is Local Housing Allowance ?

Local Housing Allowance is a new way of working out Housing Benefit for tenants renting from a private landlord. It is effective from 7th April 2008.

## How much Local Housing Allowance you may get depends on:

- who lives with you;
- which area you want to live in;
- the number of bedrooms you are entitled to (see below)

Entitlement will still be subject to a means test and proof of a valid tenancy, so you may not always receive the full rate of Local Housing Allowance.

## How to work out how many bedrooms you are allowed

The number of people who live with you will be used to work out how many bedrooms you are allowed. The number of bedrooms you are allowed is used to work out how much Local Housing Allowance you may be able to get. We do not count other rooms such as a living room, kitchen or bathroom.

You can use the following information as a guide to work out how many rooms you are allowed.

## Bedrooms

You are allowed one bedroom for:

- every adult couple (married, Civil Partnership or unmarried)
- any other adult aged 16 years or over
- any two children aged under 10 years
- any two children of the same sex aged under 16 years
- any other child.

If you share some or all of the facilities you may get the shared Local Housing Allowance rate.

This is for tenants who have a bedroom of their own but share all or some of the facilities.

## Couples with no dependent children

If you are part of a couple who have no children living with you and choose to live in a property where all or some of the facilities are shared, you can only get the shared Local Housing Allowance rate. Shared facilities could be a living room, kitchen or bathroom. By a self-contained property, we mean one where you have at least one room nobody else uses and a bathroom, toilet and cooking facilities that nobody else uses.

By couple, we mean a man and woman who are married or are living together as if they are married; a couple of the same sex who have entered into a civil partnership or are living together as if they would have entered into a civil partnership.

## If you are aged 25 years or over and live alone

If you are aged 25 years or over and live alone, you can get the rate for a one-roomed property, if you rent a self-contained property. By a self-contained property, we mean one where you have at least one room nobody else uses and a bathroom, toilet and cooking facilities that nobody else uses.

If you choose to live in a property where all or some of the facilities are shared, you can only get the shared Local Housing Allowance rate. Shared facilities could be a living room, kitchen or bathroom.

## Claimants aged under 25 years who live alone

If you are aged under 25 years and live alone you can only get the shared Local Housing Allowance rate.

## Non-dependants

Where applicable, there are still non dependant deductions for Local Housing Allowance claimants.

## Joint tenants

If you claim Local Housing Allowance you can only get it for your household, you should not include joint tenants as part of your household.

By joint tenant we mean someone who has an agreement with the landlord to share the rent with other tenants.

## How do I claim Local Housing Allowance?

Ask your council for an application form.

## For more information and advice

You can contact our Benefit's team on **01228 817201**, visit our website at **[www.carlisle.gov.uk](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk)** or write to us at:

Carlisle City Council  
Civic Centre  
Carlisle  
CA3 8QG

Or visit our Contact Centre

### Opening hours

9am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday  
9am to 4pm on Fridays

This leaflet is one of a series produced by the Cumbria District Councils to help you understand Local Housing Allowance.

You can also get information from the Department for Work and Pensions at **[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)** or write to:

Housing Support Division  
Department for Work and Pensions  
5th Floor Adelphi Buildings  
1-11 John Adam Street  
London  
WC2N 6HT

