

DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS

Discretionary Housing Payments are extra payments that can be paid by a Council to help meet rent. It is available to claimants who are entitled to some (not full) Housing where claimants show that they require some further financial assistance in order to meet (eligible) housing costs.

Each Council decides how applications should be made and each Council has its own set of rules for how it decides what, if anything is paid. Payments are therefore entirely discretionary and therefore cannot be relied upon. Typically an award can be made where claimants prove financial hardship and if awarded, will cover all or some of the difference between full rent and the Housing Benefit entitlement. Any award is generally only for a temporary period, and the amount, together with the Housing Benefit, will not exceed the full rent..

If you are receiving some (not full) Housing Benefit, and you are having difficulty paying the rest of the rent, why not contact your local Council to obtain an application for Discretionary Housing Payments. If you need any advice or assistance to claim, then please contact the Income Services Team who will be happy to assist you.

So, if in doubt, claim. After all, the worst that can happen is the Council says no!