



# Application For Backdated Housing Benefit and Local Support for Council Tax

## About Backdated Benefit

Benefit will generally only be awarded from the Monday following the date we received your claim form or from the Monday following the date that you first told us you wished to make a claim.

However we can sometimes pay **Backdated Benefit** for a period prior to the date you claimed if you can show that you had a good reason or “good cause” for not being able to claim earlier. Examples of “good cause” may include the following:

- You were ill and no-one else could claim for you
- You did not understand you could claim because of your age or language difficulties
- You were not able to manage your own affairs at the time
- A close relative had died

These examples are only a guide to help you. Each case is looked at individually and a decision is made based on the personal circumstances of each customer. If you simply forgot to claim or did not know that you could claim, this would not normally be classed as “good cause” on its own.

From the 1st of April 2016, Housing Benefit/Local Support for Council Tax can only be backdated for a maximum of one month prior to the date the claim for backdated benefit is received.

## Pension age customers

If you are of pension age, then backdating will be automatically considered for a maximum of 3 months to the date of application, but only back to the day you reached pension credit age or the day you became liable for rent if this is later.

