



**Wealden**  
District Council

  
Lewes District Council  
[www.lewes.gov.uk](http://www.lewes.gov.uk)

  
**Eastbourne**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

*Hastings*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
...Making the Difference...

A black and white photograph of a residential street. In the foreground, a street lamp stands on the left. The street is lined with houses, some with flower boxes. The background shows a hillside with more houses under a clear sky.

## **Housing and Council Tax Benefit**

### **Benefit on two homes and overlapping liabilities**

## **Benefit on two homes**

Normally Housing Benefit is only paid in respect of one rent liability at a time. If you find yourself liable for two rents at once you may be entitled to benefit on both for a limited time based on the criteria as follows:.

## **Fear of Violence**

If you have left your normal property through fear of violence either at that property or by a former member of your family then you may be entitled to Benefit on both properties for a maximum of 52 weeks.

You must be intending to return to the original property and your local Benefits Section must consider your fear to be reasonable. You must have a rental liability on both properties and the original property must not be re-let by your landlord. Your Benefits Section may write to you for confirmation.

## **Students/Trainees**

Where one partner of a couple is a student who is eligible to claim benefit (contact your benefits Section for further information about students) it may be unavoidable that each partner occupy two separate properties.

If the Benefit Section considers it reasonable to pay benefit on both then this can be paid, there is no time limit.

## **Large Families**

If your Local Authority has housed you in two properties because your family is very large then you may be entitled to benefit on both properties.

## **Unavoidable Overlapping Liability**

If you have moved to a new property and are still liable for rent on your old property you may be able to receive Housing Benefit on both for a maximum of four weeks.

You must satisfy your Benefit Section that the overlap was unavoidable.

## **Benefit prior to moving in**

If you do not move into your new property when the tenancy actually starts you may be entitled to Housing Benefit for the period before you moved in if the following apply:

- You submitted your claim form before you moved in; and
- You now live in your new property; and
- The delay was reasonable as the property was being adapted for disabled use (you may also be able to get benefit on two homes in this case); or
- The delay was due to you awaiting a social fund

payment to help with your move and you have a child of 5 or under or you satisfy the conditions for an age related or disability related premium; or

- You became liable for the rent whilst an in-patient or in residential accommodation.

## **What happens next?**

The requests for the payments described in this leaflet must be made in writing.

Your Benefit Section may write to you to confirm any details.

Your Benefit Section will write to you once a decision has been made and you will be given the opportunity to appeal if you disagree.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### Housing Benefits Office:

1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4UG

#### Opening Hours:

Monday-Tuesday 0900 - 1700

Wednesday 0930 - 1700

Thursday-Friday 0900 - 1700

#### Telephone:

01323 410000 (General Queries)

#### Fax:

01323 415130

#### E-mail:

housing.benefits@eastbourne.gov.uk (General Queries)

### HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### Benefits Service:

41 Wellington Square, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1PP

#### Opening Hours:

Monday-Thursday 0845 - 1630, Friday 0845 - 1600

#### Telephone:

01424 781900 (Helpline)

01424 781573 (Overpayments)

#### Fax:

01424 781541

#### E-mail:

benefits@hastings.gov.uk (General Queries)  
overpayments@hastings.gov.uk (Overpayment Queries)  
fraud@hastings.gov.uk (Reporting Fraud)

### LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### Finance and Community Services:

Council Offices, Fisher Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DQ

#### Opening Hours:

Monday-Thursday 0900 - 1645

Friday 0900 - 1615

#### Telephone:

01273 471600 (General Queries)

#### Fax:

01273 484066

#### E-mail:

Benefit@lewes.gov.uk (General Queries)

### WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### Benefits Service:

Vicarage Lane,

Hailsham,

East Sussex,

BN27 2AX

#### Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 0830 - 1730

#### Telephone:

01323 443500 (General Queries)

#### Fax:

01323 443146

#### Email:

benefits@wealden.gov.uk