



Welfare Reforms
Bedroom Tax

Bedroom Tax

Will you be affected?

Don't bury your head in the sand. Use our quick guide to check if your housing benefit will change!

Introduced on 20 February 2017, the bedroom tax applies to all housing benefit claimants who are of working age.

What is the reduction?

- 14% reduction in housing benefit for people with 1 spare bedroom
- 25% reduction in Housing benefit for people with 2 or more spare bedrooms

Example - A tenant receives full housing benefit for rent of £100 per week. They have one spare bedroom. After a 14% reduction in housing benefit, their revised housing benefit entitlement is £86.00 per week.

Who can be classed as using a bedroom?

- Each adult child
- 2 children of the same sex under 16
- Any other person aged 16 or over
- 2 children under 10 of any sex

- An overnight carer
- Armed forces personnel and students can be eligible for a room if they meet criteria

It is important to note that a bedroom will only be allowed for a child if the tenant is the child's primary carer.

Also, if one of your children has disabilities that mean he or she is unable to share a bedroom with another child, you may be allowed an additional bedroom.

What help is available?

The Northern Ireland Assembly will be helping those affected by the bedroom tax by topping up their housing benefit (exclusive to Northern Ireland). This will

Clanmil has an in-house money advice team to help with your bedroom tax queries. Contact us on 028 9087 7047 or email Money.Advice@clanmil.org.uk

cover your full rent and until March 2020.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive will contact those affected by the bedroom tax, explain the reduction and give information on top up payments. In the meantime you can use this guide to work out if you are under occupying your property.

Affordability

Changes to your housing benefit will be fully covered by top up payments until March 2020.

If you are under occupying and top up payments are unavailable after 2020, could you afford to pay the remainder of your rent yourself? If you would struggle with paying this extra amount, speak to your housing

officer and our money advice team for practical advice on your options.

We Can Help

Clanmil has an in-house money advice team to help with your bedroom tax queries.

If you are worried that you may struggle with rent payments if further help is not made available after March 2020 talk to the team now.

If you believe the bedroom tax should not be imposed on you, contact our team and we can help with an assessment of your household.

You can contact us on **028 9087 7047** or email **Money.Advice@clanmil.org.uk**

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