



Habinteg
Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd

Welfare Reform

Bedroom Tax

Social Sector Size Criteria
(also known as the 'bedroom tax')
is a new criteria to calculate
housing benefit payments



Welfare Reform in Northern Ireland

As you may be aware, Welfare Changes will result in changes to the benefits system in Northern Ireland. Some of the current benefits will cease to exist and new benefits and payment systems will be introduced.

What is the Bedroom Tax

Social Sector Size Criteria (the 'bedroom tax') is a new criteria to calculate housing benefit payments.

What does the change mean?

The amount of Housing Benefit paid to people of working age will be changed to reflect the size of their family. Tenants of all social landlords will have their Housing Benefit payments reduced if they have more bedrooms in their home than their family needs. The new rules will allow one bedroom for:

- Each adult couple
- Any other adult aged 16 or over
- Any two children of the same sex aged under 16
- Any two children aged under 10 regardless of gender
- Any other child (other than a foster child or child whose main home is elsewhere)
- A carer (or team of carers) who do not live with the claimant but provide overnight care.

How might you be affected

If you are considered to have more bedrooms than you need, your Housing Benefit will be reduced by:

14% if you are considered to have more bedrooms than you need.

25% for under-occupying by two or more bedrooms.

This will affect all claimants of working age. People over pension age will not be affected by the bedroom tax. If your Housing Benefit is reduced because of Social Sector Size Criteria, a Welfare Supplementary Payment will be available until 31 March 2020.

Stay informed

We are providing information to our tenants as and when it becomes available. You can speak to your Housing Officer, call our offices and check our website for advice. For the most up to date information, please see the following websites:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/welfare-changes

www.nihe.gov.uk/welfare_reform

hwww.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/benefits-and-pensions/welfare-changes

You can also download a guide to changes at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/benefits-are-changing-people-working-age-what-you-need-know

Do you require this information in an alternative format?

This leaflet can be viewed or 'listened to' on our website in the language of your choice. We also work with Language Line to offer an interpreting service, where needed.

Czy potrzebuje Pan/Pani pomocy z informacjami zawartymi w niniejszym podręczniku lub czy wymaga Pan/Pani tego materiału w alternatywnym formacie?

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