

Housing Benefit Circular

Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA

HB S3/2017

SUBSIDY CIRCULAR

WHO SHOULD READ	All Housing Benefit staff. Officers preparing claims for Discretionary Housing Payment.
ACTION	For information
SUBJECT	2017/18 Discretionary Housing Payments government contribution for English and Welsh local authorities

Guidance Manual

The information in this circular does not affect the content of the HB Guidance Manual.

Queries

If you

- want extra copies of this circular/copies of previous circulars, they can be found on the website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-benefit-for-local-authorities-subsidy-circulars>
- have any queries about the
 - **technical content of this circular**, contact
Email: housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
 - **distribution of this circular**, contact
Email: housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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2017/18 Discretionary Housing Payments government contribution for English and Welsh local authorities

Introduction

1. This circular provides details of the government contribution and overall expenditure limit for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) for 2017/18 for English and Welsh local authorities (LAs).

Background

2. Since 2011/12, additional DHP government contribution funding has been made available to assist with the transition of claimants into the welfare entitlement that resulted from the Housing Benefit (HB) welfare reforms.
3. To help LAs manage the impact of HB reforms announced in the Summer Budget 2015, the overall DHP government contribution funding was increased in both 2015/16 and 2016/17. The overall DHP funding for 2017/18 will be £185 million, an increase of £35 million (23%) compared with 2016/17.
4. The DHP government contribution comprises of funding for four separate areas of support; Core funding, Local Housing Allowance (LHA), Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy (RSRS) and benefit cap.
5. The distribution of the DHP funding is based on the effect of each element on individual LAs.

DHPs and Scotland

6. DHPs for Scotland will be fully devolved from 1 April 2017, with the Scotland Act 2016 implementing the Smith Commission Agreement. Consequently, the Department for Work and Pensions are obliged to transfer DHP funding to Scotland.
7. From 1 April 2017, the obligations for DHPs, and their allocations to Scottish LAs, will therefore be the responsibility of the Scottish Government. For 2017/18, £18.5 million (from the overall DHP £185 million funding) will be transferred to Scottish Government who will inform Scottish LAs of their individual allocations.

Distribution of the government contribution for English and Welsh LAs

8. The overall DHP funding for English and Welsh LAs is £166.5 million.

Core funding (£18 million)

9. We have retained the same methodology for distributing core funding as in 2016/17, which is pro-rata the core allocation based upon the most recent figures available in respect of the level of expenditure for HB in 2014/15. This is based on the [DHP Order 2001 Article 2 \(a\)](#)

LHA (£27 million)

10. For 2017/18 the methodology for distributing LHA has changed. Since April 2016, the maximum LHA rates have been frozen, replacing the 1% cap. To ensure a more equitable funding allocation, the 2017/18 methodology is based on the estimated reduction in HB entitlement per LA from the freeze rates in 2017/18. Therefore, this funding is allocated on the basis of need indicated in the latest data.

RSRS (£54 million)

11. The allocation of the RSRS DHP funding in 2017/18 will be the same as in previous years. The distribution of £54 million of the funding will be based on the aggregate RSRS losses in each LA area, calculated from the latest statistics available from [Stat-Xplore](#) on numbers of claimants with deductions and the average weekly deduction.
12. RSRS funding contains an element for allocation to the most fragile¹ rural LA areas affected by this policy. The nine most rural LAs in England and Wales that received this element of the funding in 2016/17 will be allocated the same level of the funding which totals £1.5 million.

Benefit cap (£67.5 million)

13. For 2016/17, benefit cap funding is allocated according to LAs proportion of the estimated total reduction to benefit under the lower cap introduced in November 2016. This is in line with the methodology used for allocating funding for the lower benefit cap used in 2016/17.

Queries

14. Please ensure that any queries relating to the allocation of the government contribution towards DHPs are sent to

housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

¹ Five broad areas of concern were identified: shortage of housing stock, future house building, increase in applications for DHPs, communication issues and potential effect on fragile remote communities.

2017/18 DHP government contribution LA allocation

Local Authority	Central Government Contribution	Overall Limit (x 2.5)
Adur	£155,109	£387,773
Allerdale	£229,373	£573,433
Amber Valley	£227,139	£567,848
Arun	£361,943	£904,858
Ashfield	£304,158	£760,395
Ashford	£297,764	£744,410
Aylesbury Vale	£296,315	£740,788
Babergh	£129,507	£323,768
Barking and Dagenham	£1,062,769	£2,656,923
Barnet	£1,709,939	£4,274,848
Barnsley	£723,185	£1,807,963
Barrow-in-Furness	£128,957	£322,393
Basildon	£550,936	£1,377,340
Basingstoke and Deane	£433,655	£1,084,138
Bassetlaw	£223,030	£557,575
Bath and North East Somerset	£304,975	£762,438
Bedford	£525,589	£1,313,973
Bexley	£641,277	£1,603,193
Birmingham	£5,283,667	£13,209,168
Blaby	£99,974	£249,935
Blackburn with Darwen	£446,531	£1,116,328
Blackpool	£420,949	£1,052,373
Blaenau Gwent / Blaenau Gwent	£267,330	£668,325
Bolsover	£179,699	£449,248
Bolton	£938,809	£2,347,023
Boston	£160,016	£400,040
Bournemouth	£715,520	£1,788,800
Bracknell Forest	£244,422	£611,055
Bradford	£1,416,491	£3,541,228
Braintree	£287,852	£719,630
Breckland	£258,849	£647,123
Brent	£2,650,670	£6,626,675
Brentwood	£109,090	£272,725
Bridgend / Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	£378,460	£946,150
Brighton and Hove	£1,132,756	£2,831,890
Bristol, City of	£1,470,276	£3,675,690
Broadland	£150,031	£375,078
Bromley	£726,861	£1,817,153
Bromsgrove	£103,018	£257,545
Broxbourne	£343,681	£859,203
Broxtowe	£141,614	£354,035
Burnley	£227,148	£567,870

Bury	£368,133	£920,333
Caerphilly / Caerffili	£610,525	£1,526,313
Calderdale	£407,895	£1,019,738
Cambridge	£243,719	£609,298
Camden	£1,000,486	£2,501,215
Cannock Chase	£186,894	£467,235
Canterbury	£301,079	£752,698
Cardiff / Caerdydd	£1,368,916	£3,422,290
Carlisle	£213,953	£534,883
Carmarthenshire / Sir Gaerfyrddin	£428,778	£1,071,945
Castle Point	£210,961	£527,403
Central Bedfordshire	£458,879	£1,147,198
Ceredigion / Ceredigion	£288,867	£722,168
Charnwood	£228,631	£571,578
Chelmsford	£334,395	£835,988
Cheltenham	£206,154	£515,385
Cherwell	£309,040	£772,600
Cheshire East	£571,577	£1,428,943
Cheshire West and Chester	£650,927	£1,627,318
Chesterfield	£249,627	£624,068
Chichester	£232,844	£582,110
Chiltern	£143,909	£359,773
Chorley	£166,041	£415,103
Christchurch	£94,720	£236,800
City of London	£21,810	£54,525
Colchester	£414,027	£1,035,068
Conwy / Conwy	£230,668	£576,670
Copeland	£209,523	£523,808
Corby	£191,418	£478,545
Cornwall	£1,405,134	£3,512,835
Cotswold	£115,595	£288,988
County Durham	£1,300,793	£3,251,983
Coventry	£1,236,832	£3,092,080
Craven	£122,372	£305,930
Crawley	£436,154	£1,090,385
Croydon	£1,760,650	£4,401,625
Dacorum	£430,639	£1,076,598
Darlington	£292,556	£731,390
Dartford	£209,792	£524,480
Daventry	£127,318	£318,295
Denbighshire / Sir Ddinbych	£259,595	£648,988
Derby	£645,073	£1,612,683
Derbyshire Dales	£81,374	£203,435
Doncaster	£886,088	£2,215,220
Dover	£272,104	£680,260
Dudley	£819,817	£2,049,543
Ealing	£2,274,206	£5,685,515

East Cambridgeshire	£122,810	£307,025
East Devon	£201,742	£504,355
East Dorset	£110,347	£275,868
East Hampshire	£155,932	£389,830
East Hertfordshire	£229,749	£574,373
East Lindsey	£298,955	£747,388
East Northamptonshire	£171,884	£429,710
East Riding of Yorkshire	£473,423	£1,183,558
East Staffordshire	£222,338	£555,845
Eastbourne	£352,999	£882,498
Eastleigh	£230,425	£576,063
Eden	£158,459	£396,148
Elmbridge	£292,268	£730,670
Enfield	£2,366,118	£5,915,295
Epping Forest	£298,970	£747,425
Epsom and Ewell	£181,359	£453,398
Erewash	£252,156	£630,390
Exeter	£239,864	£599,660
Fareham	£153,931	£384,828
Fenland	£247,903	£619,758
Flintshire / Sir y Fflint	£365,571	£913,928
Forest Heath	£101,061	£252,653
Forest of Dean	£142,127	£355,318
Fylde	£59,473	£148,683
Gateshead	£630,766	£1,576,915
Gedling	£183,793	£459,483
Gloucester	£345,285	£863,213
Gosport	£204,225	£510,563
Gravesham	£294,995	£737,488
Great Yarmouth	£274,282	£685,705
Greenwich	£994,460	£2,486,150
Guildford	£253,784	£634,460
Gwynedd / Gwynedd	£726,374	£1,815,935
Hackney	£2,118,714	£5,296,785
Halton	£406,692	£1,016,730
Hambleton	£124,826	£312,065
Hammersmith and Fulham	£855,248	£2,138,120
Harborough	£72,028	£180,070
Haringey	£1,752,132	£4,380,330
Harlow	£305,579	£763,948
Harrogate	£171,804	£429,510
Harrow	£892,439	£2,231,098
Hart	£100,392	£250,980
Hartlepool	£416,211	£1,040,528
Hastings	£412,154	£1,030,385
Havant	£268,129	£670,323
Havering	£661,643	£1,654,108

Herefordshire, County of	£304,988	£762,470
Hertsmere	£317,856	£794,640
High Peak	£119,773	£299,433
Hillingdon	£962,882	£2,407,205
Hinckley and Bosworth	£133,712	£334,280
Horsham	£210,316	£525,790
Hounslow	£988,071	£2,470,178
Huntingdonshire	£266,029	£665,073
Hyndburn	£156,957	£392,393
Ipswich	£422,078	£1,055,195
Isle of Anglesey / Ynys Môn	£162,656	£406,640
Isle of Wight	£349,867	£874,668
Isles of Scilly	£227	£568
Islington	£1,214,397	£3,035,993
Kensington and Chelsea	£895,344	£2,238,360
Kettering	£193,755	£484,388
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	£299,486	£748,715
Kingston upon Hull, City of	£1,026,126	£2,565,315
Kingston Upon Thames	£471,801	£1,179,503
Kirklees	£753,733	£1,884,333
Knowsley	£725,153	£1,812,883
Lambeth	£1,500,749	£3,751,873
Lancaster	£234,626	£586,565
Leeds	£2,337,180	£5,842,950
Leicester	£1,186,024	£2,965,060
Lewes	£259,329	£648,323
Lewisham	£1,523,921	£3,809,803
Lichfield	£136,254	£340,635
Lincoln	£242,505	£606,263
Liverpool	£2,104,859	£5,262,148
Luton	£1,051,986	£2,629,965
Maidstone	£325,633	£814,083
Maldon	£91,566	£228,915
Malvern Hills	£123,177	£307,943
Manchester	£2,557,484	£6,393,710
Mansfield	£278,334	£695,835
Medway	£843,891	£2,109,728
Melton	£63,952	£159,880
Mendip	£198,233	£495,583
Merthyr Tydfil / Merthyr Tudful	£208,688	£521,720
Merton	£557,523	£1,393,808
Mid Devon	£118,429	£296,073
Mid Suffolk	£109,317	£273,293
Mid Sussex	£207,133	£517,833
Middlesbrough	£754,596	£1,886,490
Milton Keynes	£836,933	£2,092,333
Mole Valley	£115,840	£289,600

Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy	£190,346	£475,865
Neath Port Talbot / Castell-nedd Port Talbot	£475,314	£1,188,285
New Forest	£324,613	£811,533
Newark and Sherwood	£208,580	£521,450
Newcastle upon Tyne	£1,169,857	£2,924,643
Newcastle-under-Lyme	£206,450	£516,125
Newham	£1,801,456	£4,503,640
Newport / Casnewydd	£562,196	£1,405,490
North Devon	£178,464	£446,160
North Dorset	£109,801	£274,503
North East Derbyshire	£194,158	£485,395
North East Lincolnshire	£466,303	£1,165,758
North Hertfordshire	£283,334	£708,335
North Kesteven	£140,972	£352,430
North Lincolnshire	£395,413	£988,533
North Norfolk	£169,430	£423,575
North Somerset	£480,749	£1,201,873
North Tyneside	£570,266	£1,425,665
North Warwickshire	£90,383	£225,958
North West Leicestershire	£173,364	£433,410
Northampton	£545,641	£1,364,103
Northumberland	£692,086	£1,730,215
Norwich	£500,961	£1,252,403
Nottingham	£1,532,896	£3,832,240
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£293,612	£734,030
Oadby and Wigston	£75,399	£188,498
Oldham	£683,177	£1,707,943
Oxford	£509,495	£1,273,738
Pembrokeshire / Sir Benfro	£246,390	£615,975
Pendle	£140,095	£350,238
Peterborough	£687,855	£1,719,638
Plymouth	£725,055	£1,812,638
Poole	£398,162	£995,405
Portsmouth	£780,693	£1,951,733
Powys / Powys	£567,465	£1,418,663
Preston	£367,539	£918,848
Purbeck	£83,681	£209,203
Reading	£789,994	£1,974,985
Redbridge	£1,022,986	£2,557,465
Redcar and Cleveland	£490,554	£1,226,385
Redditch	£153,589	£383,973
Reigate and Banstead	£271,256	£678,140
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff / Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	£666,632	£1,666,580
Ribble Valley	£46,638	£116,595
Richmond Upon Thames	£349,006	£872,515

Richmondshire	£141,129	£352,823
Rochdale	£712,983	£1,782,458
Rochford	£143,073	£357,683
Rossendale	£104,143	£260,358
Rother	£190,214	£475,535
Rotherham	£818,673	£2,046,683
Rugby	£153,063	£382,658
Runnymede	£171,156	£427,890
Rushcliffe	£119,577	£298,943
Rushmoor	£240,201	£600,503
Rutland	£32,880	£82,200
Ryedale	£192,939	£482,348
Salford	£971,870	£2,429,675
Sandwell	£1,352,884	£3,382,210
Scarborough	£277,570	£693,925
Sedgemoor	£238,511	£596,278
Sefton	£720,214	£1,800,535
Selby	£118,942	£297,355
Sevenoaks	£198,116	£495,290
Sheffield	£1,453,560	£3,633,900
Shepway	£320,758	£801,895
Shropshire	£531,974	£1,329,935
Slough	£760,571	£1,901,428
Solihull	£374,002	£935,005
South Bucks	£144,747	£361,868
South Cambridgeshire	£165,659	£414,148
South Derbyshire	£131,157	£327,893
South Gloucestershire	£452,644	£1,131,610
South Hams	£125,327	£313,318
South Holland	£148,246	£370,615
South Kesteven	£249,168	£622,920
South Lakeland	£107,283	£268,208
South Norfolk	£182,400	£456,000
South Northamptonshire	£86,860	£217,150
South Oxfordshire	£207,124	£517,810
South Ribble	£142,045	£355,113
South Somerset	£287,247	£718,118
South Staffordshire	£133,755	£334,388
South Tyneside	£619,755	£1,549,388
Southampton	£884,615	£2,211,538
Southend-on-Sea	£713,686	£1,784,215
Southwark	£1,236,085	£3,090,213
Spelthorne	£294,771	£736,928
St Albans	£230,821	£577,053
St Edmundsbury	£208,549	£521,373
St. Helens	£586,846	£1,467,115
Stafford	£169,281	£423,203

Staffordshire Moorlands	£95,450	£238,625
Stevenage	£276,042	£690,105
Stockport	£515,039	£1,287,598
Stockton-on-Tees	£576,512	£1,441,280
Stoke-on-Trent	£824,638	£2,061,595
Stratford-on-Avon	£197,593	£493,983
Stroud	£153,989	£384,973
Suffolk Coastal	£167,566	£418,915
Sunderland	£1,046,848	£2,617,120
Surrey Heath	£111,416	£278,540
Sutton	£408,897	£1,022,243
Swale	£454,797	£1,136,993
Swansea / Abertawe	£676,515	£1,691,288
Swindon	£507,168	£1,267,920
Tameside	£603,464	£1,508,660
Tamworth	£159,093	£397,733
Tandridge	£165,669	£414,173
Taunton Deane	£196,652	£491,630
Teignbridge	£217,294	£543,235
Telford and Wrekin	£653,885	£1,634,713
Tendring	£597,804	£1,494,510
Test Valley	£210,577	£526,443
Tewkesbury	£137,669	£344,173
Thanet	£424,684	£1,061,710
The Vale of Glamorgan / Bro Morgannwg	£330,286	£825,715
Three Rivers	£191,053	£477,633
Thurrock	£553,612	£1,384,030
Tonbridge and Malling	£284,178	£710,445
Torbay	£481,236	£1,203,090
Torfaen / Tor-faen	£379,554	£948,885
Torridge	£129,819	£324,548
Tower Hamlets	£1,812,716	£4,531,790
Trafford	£470,475	£1,176,188
Tunbridge Wells	£235,459	£588,648
Uttlesford	£106,286	£265,715
Vale of White Horse	£198,315	£495,788
Wakefield	£1,083,279	£2,708,198
Walsall	£1,089,275	£2,723,188
Waltham Forest	£1,182,525	£2,956,313
Wandsworth	£1,259,579	£3,148,948
Warrington	£310,153	£775,383
Warwick	£209,030	£522,575
Watford	£353,614	£884,035
Waveney	£266,086	£665,215
Waverley	£205,705	£514,263
Wealden	£241,005	£602,513
Wellingborough	£189,256	£473,140

Welwyn Hatfield	£306,531	£766,328
West Berkshire	£317,099	£792,748
West Devon	£172,151	£430,378
West Dorset	£173,380	£433,450
West Lancashire	£210,455	£526,138
West Lindsey	£182,508	£456,270
West Oxfordshire	£178,198	£445,495
West Somerset	£158,504	£396,260
Westminster	£1,405,376	£3,513,440
Weymouth and Portland	£200,884	£502,210
Wigan	£685,485	£1,713,713
Wiltshire	£770,512	£1,926,280
Winchester	£171,871	£429,678
Windsor and Maidenhead	£261,836	£654,590
Wirral	£872,473	£2,181,183
Woking	£227,210	£568,025
Wokingham	£196,279	£490,698
Wolverhampton	£1,062,606	£2,656,515
Worcester	£220,893	£552,233
Worthing	£267,423	£668,558
Wrexham / Wreccsam	£353,025	£882,563
Wychavon	£176,925	£442,313
Wycombe	£386,572	£966,430
Wyre	£155,896	£389,740
Wyre Forest	£209,165	£522,913
York	£256,596	£641,490
Total	£166,500,000	£416,250,000