

Freedom of Information request 312/2015

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Information request

Thank you for your answer to a previous request concerning 3rd party deductions for rent arrears, in which you kindly forwarded me guidance on priority orders and amendments to the regulations allowing 10% to 20% to be deducted from UC and paid to a landlord.

I have a follow up question: can a landlord ask the DWP to pay just 10% of the appropriate standard allowance even where a 20% deduction COULD be made?

DWP response

No. Landlords cannot propose the rate at which deductions are made. Where third party deductions from Universal Credit are in place to recover rent arrears, regulations provide for an amount equal to between 10% -20% of the claimant's standard allowance depending on what other deductions are in place. The minimum 10% deduction is at the top of the priority order and the maximum deduction of 20% is towards the bottom. So any deductions between the minimum and maximum rates will reduce the deduction rate. However, landlords can seek to make their own arrangements with tenants for repayment of rent arrears, deciding and agreeing the terms of recovery with their tenant.