

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

Information on Second Adult rebate

What Is Second Adult Rebate?

Second Adult Rebate, is a form of Council Tax Benefit. Unlike Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, entitlement is based on the income of people in your household other than yourself. Therefore a council tax payer may qualify for this benefit even if their income is too high to qualify for main Council Tax Benefit.

You cannot normally claim Second Adult Rebate if you live with a spouse or partner unless your partner is disregarded for discount purposes.

Second Adult Rebate is primarily used for single people who share their home with other people on a non-commercial basis.

Normally this scheme benefits people who share their home with another adult who receives Income Support or Job Seekers Allowance Income Based or has a low wage.

An example of where Second Adult Rebate could be awarded is where a single parent who is working full time has an unemployed son or daughter staying with them who are aged over 18.

Who can claim?

You can claim Second Adult Rebate if you are the only person liable to pay the Council Tax but you share your home with one or more persons over the age of 18 years who;

- are not liable to pay rent on a commercial basis for living in your home
- are not responsible for paying the Council Tax
- are not your spouse or partner (unless they are disregarded for discount purposes) and
- have a low gross income and are not counted as a 'disregarded person' for Council Tax purposes (e.g. certain students, youth trainees, carers and people who are considered to be severely mentally impaired).

Please refer to our website for further information on Council Tax Discounts, Exemptions and people who do not count for council tax purposes www.torfaen.gov.uk under [housing > council tax](#)).

Who would be classed as a 'Second Adult'?

Anyone who is 18 years or older and lives in the home with the Council Tax payer. Examples of 'Second Adults' are grown up children, friends and relatives.

People who cannot be treated as 'second adults' include the Council Tax payer's partner (unless disregarded for discount purposes), joint-tenants, lodgers and certain students.

How is Second Adult Rebate calculated?

Second Adult Rebate is calculated on the combined gross income of all 'second adults' living in the property. The award is made on a percentage basis of your Council Tax bill.

- If all second adults receive Income Support (IS), Income Based Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA (IB)) Employment and Support allowance (Income-related) (ESA IR) or Pension Credit you will be entitled to a 25% reduction from your Council Tax bill.
- If all second adults have a combined gross income of up to £174.99 a week, you will qualify for a 15% reduction from your Council Tax bill.
- If all adults have a combined gross income of between £175.00 and £227.99 a week, you will qualify for a 7.5% reduction discount from your Council Tax bill.
- If the gross income of all second adults is £228.000 or more each week, you will not qualify for Second Adult Rebate.

Student Second Adult Rebate

When a dwelling is occupied by a student or students and one or more people in receipt of IS, Pension Credit or JSA (IB), you will qualify for a 100% reduction. This is to compensate the council tax payer for the loss of the council tax exemption caused by the presence of the second adult in their home.

How to claim

The person responsible for the payment of Council Tax will need to apply for Second Adult Rebate. You can do this by contacting us on **0800 028 2569**.

- We will need your **name, address and contact phone number**. We will then arrange to complete the claim with you either by personal interview in one of our customer centres or over the telephone.
- If you have difficulty getting into one of our offices or using the telephone we can visit you to complete the form. To arrange this contact us on 0800 028 2569.

Alternatively you may download a claim form from the Council's website. This can be found under www.torfaen.gov.uk under **Advice and Benefits>Second Adult Rebate**.

What information is needed to assess a person's entitlement to Second Adult Rebate?

As the claimant, you will need to provide evidence of your National Insurance Number and proof of identity. We also need to know about the circumstances of the Second Adult(s). Full details of their income and savings will be required.

Does the council tax payer need to provide their Income and Savings details?

No-We do not require these details in order to calculate Second Adult rebate. However, if these are provided we will automatically work out both Council Tax Benefit and Second Adult Rebate and if you qualify for both we will pay you the higher of these two benefits.

How is Second Adult Rebate paid?

We pay this straight into your Council Tax account reducing your Council Tax Bill.

Changes in Circumstances

It is very important that you let us know immediately if your second adult (s) has a change in their circumstances for example if they move out of your household or their income changes as you may receive too little or too much benefit.

You can tell us about any changes by writing to The Benefit Section, Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YB by calling into one of our Customer Centres (addresses below) or by contacting Call Torfaen on 01495 766430 or 01495 766139.

Where can I get more advice?

If you need more help, phone the Customer Care Team on **01495 766430** or **01495 766139**. Or you can call in at any of the following.

Pontypool Customer Centre Level 1, Civic Centre, Pontypool.	Cwmbran Customer Centre 1-2 General Rees Square, Cwmbran.	Trevethin Customer Centre Church Avenue, Trevethin, Pontypool.	Blaenavon Customer Centre 7-12 Lion Court, Lion Street, Blaenavon.
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