



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council



Easy Words and Pictures

Discretionary **H**ousing **P**ayment **Explained**





What is Discretionary Housing Payment



If you don't have enough money to pay your rent, we might be able to help.

You might be entitled to a **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)**.



Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

This is an additional benefit given to people who can't pay their rent.

You may be able to claim a DHP on top of your usual housing benefit or Universal Credit payment.



Who can claim a DHP

Anyone whose Housing Benefit or Universal Credit does not cover their rent can apply.



Anyone at risk of being evicted or with rent arrears can apply.



Reasons why you may not get full Housing Benefit and need a DHP

If you have more bedrooms than the government says you need.

If you share your house with anyone over 18 as they should contribute to your housing costs. Even if they are family and friends

If your income is above a certain level.



How to apply for a DHP



If you are struggling to pay your rent, we can help.



You must be receiving Housing Benefit or Universal Credit housing costs.

You can apply for a DHP on our website
www.barnsley.gov.uk/dhp-form

A DHP is not to pay for:



- Service charges,
- Fuel or travel costs,
- Other bills (such as food, water and electric)
- Alarm systems e.g. warden alarm
- Laundry
- Nursing and personal care



We will ask you questions about:



- Income, benefits and savings.
- Personal information about your savings and bank accounts



- Information about you and your family's health.



- What you spend your money on.
Including information about your bills, loans, debts and other costs.

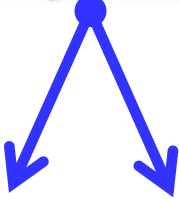
After you apply



If you are entitled to a DHP payment, we will write to you.



We will tell you how much you will get and for how long. Normally this will be for 6 months.



You will receive the payment with your housing benefit or a payment into your bank account.



If you want, the payment can go directly to your landlord.



If we can't make a payment, we will tell you the reasons why.

If you do not agree with our decision you can ask us to look at the decision again.



If your income or savings increase

You must let us know if your financial situation gets better.



We will then review your DHP

We might ask you to pay back DHP if you were not entitled to it.



After you apply

After you apply, we will refer you for **Personal budgeting support**.

Personal budgeting support

Help to manage your money and bills.



They will talk to you about your circumstances and put a support plan together to help you.



If you're given a DHP, you must use this plan to try and improve your financial situation.



Help and advice

If you want to speak to someone else, you can get advice from the organisations below:



- **Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)**
0344 411 1444



- **National Debtline**
0808 808 4000



- **Money Advice Service**
0300 500 5000



- **Step Change Debt Charity**
0800 138 1111



Contacting us

Contact us if you need more information about applying for DHP.



We can also give you information and advice on your benefits, housing and welfare.



Call us on **01226 787787**
Monday to Friday 9am –4pm.

Or visit our website **www.barnsley.gov.uk**



Webchat is available:
Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm and
Friday 9am- 4:30pm



Please let us know if you have any access requirements, so we can help you?