

Housing Benefit - spare room subsidy

From 1 April 2013, new rules restrict the eligible rent if you are considered to be under-occupying your accommodation. These rules ONLY apply to people of working age. People of pension age are exempt.

How this rule may affect claims for social rented sector tenants

If you are of working age, you will be entitled to **one** bedroom for the following people in your household:

- Every adult couple (married or civil partners or living as married or civil partners)
- Any other adult aged 16 or over, including non dependants
- Any two children of the same sex aged under 16
- Any two children aged under 10
- Any other child
- Any foster child or foster children, if you or your partner are approved foster carers
- A severely disabled child who would normally be expected to share a bedroom
- A carer (or team of carers) who do not live with you but provide you or your partner with overnight care
- Any adult child who is in the armed forces and deployed on operations
- A sub tenant
- A boarder

The spare room subsidy rules will apply a reduction in your eligible rent if you have one or more spare bedrooms

What reductions will be applied

We will compare the number of bedrooms allocated to you by your social landlord to your bedroom entitlement above. Any working age claimant who is considered to be under occupying will have a:

- 14% reduction in their eligible rent for one spare bedroom
- 25% reduction in their eligible rent for two or more spare bedrooms