Application form to claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction

For office use only
Reference
Date form requested
Date form issued
Return by

Use this form if you want to make a new application for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction. You can also apply online please go to our website at www.richmond.gov.uk/benefits If you are already getting benefit and are moving, or wish to tell us about a change in your circumstances, please go to our website at www.richmond.gov.uk/benefits where you can complete an online form.

Before you start to fill in the form please tick the boxes below that apply to you, and read the information on this page and the next. Please complete the form in black ink using block capitals.

- I would like to claim Council Tax reduction only
- I pay rent to a private landlord or housing association
- I am in temporary housing arranged by Richmond Council

If you are in temporary housing arranged by another council, you must contact them to claim housing benefits.

The form is divided into 15 parts. You must fill in every part, even if only to confirm that the questions do not apply to you. You should read the guidance notes at the start of each part. These will also tell you the proof we need to see.

Your claim may be delayed if you do not send in all the proof we ask for.

If you have a partner, this form must be filled in by both of you. We use 'partner' to mean:

- a person you are married to or a person you live with as if you are married to them
- a civil partner or a person you live with as if you are a civil partner

You and your partner, if any, must sign the declaration in part 15 of the form.

If you are of pensionable age and claiming Council Tax Reduction, you may still be able to get up to 25% off your Council Tax bill if the only other adults living with you have a low income or are claiming Income Support. This help is known as Second Adult Rebate. For this, your own income and savings will not be taken into account.

If you wish to claim only Second Adult Rebate, tick yes in the box below and just fill in Parts 1,2,4 and 15 of the form.

Do you wish to claim Second Adult Rebate?

🗌 Yes 🗌 No



Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction

Useful Information

Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit is help for all types of rent payments. It includes Rent Rebates, Rent Allowance, and the Local Housing Allowance. In order to make the form as straightforward as possible, we will only use the term 'Housing Benefit'.

Help with filling in the form

If you need help filling in the form, please go to our website www.richmond.gov.uk/benefits.

You can also get help and advice by calling (020) 8891 1411 between 9am and 5pm.

You can write to us at this address:

The Benefits Service

Richmond Council, PO Box 72385, London SW18 9PG email: benefits@richmond.gov.uk

You will be sent an acknowledgement letter once we receive your form.

The proof we need to see

To make sure your benefit is correct, we need to see proof of every statement you make on the form. **These must be original documents not photocopies.** We will make a copy of the document and return the original to you by registered post if necessary.

In all cases where we ask for proof, we need to see this for both you and your partner.

We have listed the proof we need to see in the notes at the start of each part.

You must fill in the form at once and send it back to us with all the proof currently available. You may lose benefit if you delay. If you cannot provide all the proof we need, you should still return the form to us and let us know in Part 14 that you will send in the missing items. We will then allow an extra month for you to provide this information, without affecting the start date of your benefit.

Data Protection

Richmond Council is the Data Controller for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018. If you want to know more about what information we have about you, or the way we use your information, you can visit Richmond.gov.uk and search privacy.

How we collect and use information

The information we collect on this form, and from supporting evidence, will be used to process your Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction award and your entitlement to Council Tax Discount. The information may be passed to other agencies or organisations such as the Department for Work and Pensions, Employment Service and HM Revenue and Customs as allowed by law. We may check this information with details held by other council departments such as Housing or Social Services or give them details of your benefit status. This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes as allowed by law.

We will not give information about you to anyone else nor use information about you for other purposes unless the law allows us to.

The Council sometimes needs information about people other than the person who has applied for a benefit to work out what that person is entitled to. For example, where a person makes a claim for benefit, we need information about other people who live in the same household to work out how much the person will be paid. This information may be gained from other departments such as HM Revenues and Customs and the Department of Work and Pensions.

about you	ı and y	our he	ome					
 We will need to see original documents as proof of your identity. If you have a partner, we will need to see proof of your partner's identity as well. Two items of proof are required for both you and your partner. We will accept documents such as: passport a bank statement your birth certificate a full driving licence a letter from a solicitor, social worker, probation officer or the HM Revenue & Customs a paid gas, electricity or water bill for the last quarter 				and				
Do you have a partner?	Yes	🗌 No	If 'Yes', you and proof,	•				
	you			you	r par	tner		
	Mr Mrs	Miss Ms	Other	Mr	Mrs	Miss	Ms	Other
Surname								
Other names								
Address								
Daytime phone number*								
Email address*								
Date of birth								
National Insurance number								
Tell us any other names you have used								
Date you moved in								
Have you or your partner previously claimed benefit at another address within Richmond?	Yes	No No		Yes	S		D	
If 'Yes' please give the address(es) and date(s)								

*You do not have to give this information, however it may speed up the claim process if you do.

Part 1 - about you and your home continued

	you	your partner
Do you or your partner own this property or have either of you owned this or any	Yes No If 'Yes', please give details	Yes No If 'Yes', please give details
other property?		
Are you living away from the property you are claiming for?	Yes No If 'Yes', when did you last live at this address?	Yes No If 'Yes', when did you last live at this address?
	When do you expect to go back to this address?	When do you expect to go back to this address?
	Tell us why you are not living at this address	Tell us why you are not living at home address
Have you or your partner previously claimed benefit	Yes No If 'Yes', please give the address	Yes No If 'Yes', please give the address
at another address outside the borough of Richmond within the last 52 weeks?		
	Please tell us the benefit claim reference number (if known) for this address	Please tell us the benefit claim reference number (if known) for this address
Do you or your partner have to pay council tax at an address other than the	Yes No If 'Yes', please give the address	Yes No If 'Yes', please give the address
one shown on page 1?		
	Please tell us the Council Tax reference number (if known) for this address	Please tell us the Council Tax reference number (if known) for this address

Part 1 - about you and your home continued

Is there a person with a disability living in your home?	Yes If 'Yes' please answer	No r the questions below	w.
Does your home have a separate kitchen or bathroom just for them?	Kitchen	Bathroom	Neither
If your home is adapted to meet their needs (such as wider doors for a wheelchair), please give details.			
If there is a special room other			

than kitchen or bathroom because of their disabilities (such as a room set aside for dialysis or because a separate bedroom is required), please give details.

> part 2

about you and your partner

If you or your partner are not UK nationals, we will need to see one of these as proof of your residency status:

- Home Office Application Registration Card (ARC)
- a current, valid passport
- UK and Republic of Ireland residency permit

We will also need to see the following items of proof where applicable:

- recent benefit award notifications showing current amounts
- a letter from the college confirming student status and duration of course
- a letter from prison confirming custody
- a letter from your employer confirming youth training, apprenticeship or student nurse status
- a letter from your doctor confirming severe mental impairment
- proof of the date when registered blind

	you	your partner
Have you or your partner come to live in the Common Travel Area in the last 2 years?	Yes No If 'Yes', what date did you become resident	Yes No If 'Yes', what date did you become resident
(United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Channel Islands)		
Are you or your partner a UK national?	Yes No If 'no', what is your nationality?	Yes No If 'no', what is your nationality?

Part 2 - about you and your partner continued

	you		your part	tner
Do you or your partner get Income Support or Income based Jobseeker's	Yes If 'Yes', when did it s	No tart?	Yes If 'Yes', when o	□ No did it start?
Allowance?				
Are you or your partner in hospital?	Yes If 'Yes', when did you	No I go into hospital?	Yes If 'Yes', when a	No did you go into hospital?
	M/bat data da yay ay			vou ovpost to some out
	What date do you ex	pect to come out?	what date do	you expect to come out?
Have you or your partner been unable to work because of sickness for the last 52 weeks?	Yes	No No	Yes	No No
Have you or your partner ever claimed Carers Allowance?	Yes Tick 'yes', even if you been because you we			
Has Carers Allowance	Yes	🗌 No	Yes	No No
stopped in the last 3 months?	Who was it paid to?			
	Date of last payment			
Does anyone get Carers Allowance for looking after you or your partner?	Yes	No No	Yes	No
Are you or your partner, or	Yes	🗌 No	Yes	No
have you or your partner ever	If 'Yes', please give the		If 'yes', please g	ive the date you registered
been registered blind?	From	То	From	То
Are you or your partner:	_	_	_	_
a full time student?	Yes	No No	Yes	No
a student nurse?	Yes	No No	Yes	No No
an apprentice?	l Yes	No	└── Yes	No No
on youth training?	Yes	□ No	☐ Yes	No No
in legal custody?	Yes	□ No	Yes	No
severely mentally impaired?	Yes		Yes	No No
a registered Foster Carer?	Yes	No	Yes	□ No
Do you have a carer who lives elsewhere but occasionally stays overnight?	Yes	No No	Yes	No No
Are you a former rough sleeper who has spent 3 months in a specialist hostel(s) for homeless people?	Yes	No No	Yes	No
Are you subject to a care order, under the Children's Act 1989 (under 22 and previously in care		🗌 No	Yes	No No

part

about your dependent children

We need to know about all the dependent children living with you. Dependent children are those aged up to 16. Young people aged under 20 are also classed as dependent children if you still get Child Benefit for them. If you have more than six dependent children, please use a separate sheet of paper for their details. If you have no dependent children, please write 'none' against the first question and go on to Part 4.

If you are claiming for dependent children, we will need to see your child benefit confirmation letter.

If any of the children have been in hospital for more than a year, please provide a letter to confirm. If they are registered blind, please provide their registration card.

If you pay a childminder, a nursery or pay for afterschool care, we will need to see a letter showing the amount you pay.

How many dependent children do you have?	If you have written 'none' please go to part 4
first child	second child
Surname	Surname
Other names	Other names
Date of birth	Date of birth
The child's relationship to you	The child's relationship to you

third child

Surname	Surname
Other names	Other names
Date of birth	Date of birth
The child's relationship to you	The child's relations

fifth child

Surname

Other names

Date of birth

The child's relationship to you

fourth child

hip to you

sixth child

Surname

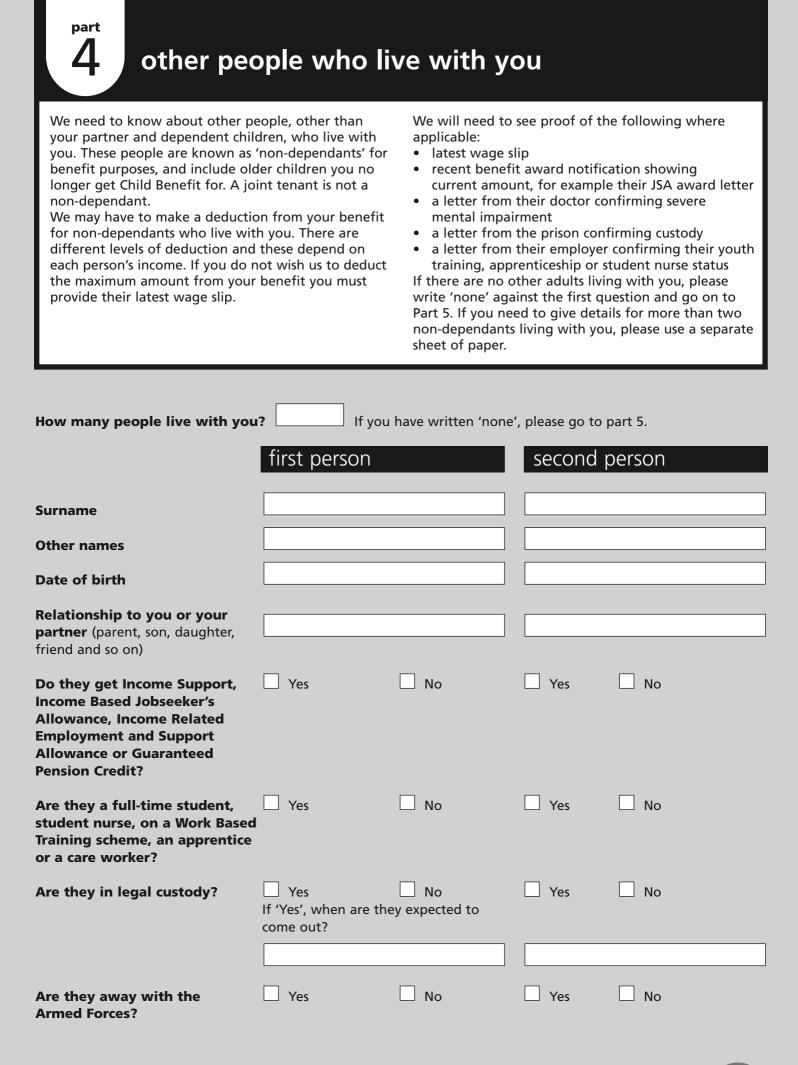
Other names

Date of birth

The child's relationship to you

Part 3 - about your dependent children continued

Are any of the children registered blind?	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us their names	Child 2 (if appl	icable)
Are any of the children getting Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments (PIPs)?	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us their names	Child 2 (if appl	icable)
Have any of the children been in hospital for more than 12 months?	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us their names	Child 2 (if appl	icable)
Do any of the children have other income, such as maintenance?	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us their names	Child 2 (if appl	icable)
Do you or your partner have children who are; • under 15	Yes No If 'Yes', please give the names of the child each child each week.	dren and how n	nuch you pay for
 under 16 with a disability who are looked after by a 			f
registered childminder, or a nursery or after school club?			f
			f
			f
Are any of these costs being paid for by social services, or any other agency?	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us how much.		
What is the name and address of the childminder?			
What is the childminder's registration number?			



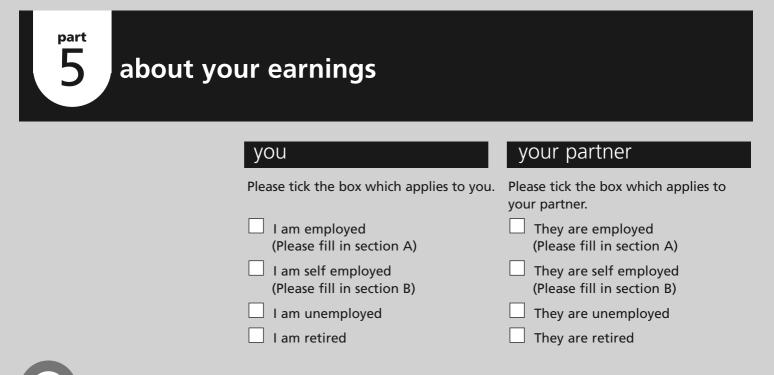
Part 4 - other people who live with you continued

	first person	second person
Are they in hospital?	Yes No If 'Yes', when did they go into hospital?	Yes No If 'Yes', when did they go into hospital?
	When are they expected to come out?	When are they expected to come out?
Are they severely mentally	Yes No	Yes No

impaired?

If they are earning and you wish to claim a lower level of non dependant deduction you will need to answer the questions below and provide proof in one of the ways described in the note at the start of Part 5.

How much do they earn a week before deductions are made?	£		f		
Do they work 16 hours a week or more?	Yes	No No	Yes	No No	
If they have savings, how much income have they received from them in the past year?	£		£		
If they do not have an income, please confirm how they meet their day to day living expenses.					



Part 5 - about your earnings continued

	you	your partner
Are you or your partner a director of a company? (even if unpaid)	Yes No If 'Yes' for you or your partner, please give	Yes No
How many jobs do you and your partner have, including self employment?		

If you have written 'none' for both you and your partner, please go to Part 6

You will need to provide the same type of information and proof for all of your and your partner's jobs. Please use a separate sheet of paper for each additional job.

If you or your partner are employed we will need to see proof of income for each job. This can be one of the following:

- a completed certificate of earnings from the back of this application form (this must be stamped by your employer)
- a letter from the employer giving all the information requested in the certificate (this must be on headed paper)
- five most recent consecutive weekly wage slips, or last two monthly salary slips

Section A	you	your partner
Number of hours worked in main job		
What type of work do you do?		
Employer's name and address		
Payroll reference number		
Date employment started		
Please give your and your partner's gross pay (This is the amount you earn before income tax, national insurance and so on are taken off)	£	f
How often is this paid? (weekly, monthly, 4 weekly and so on)?		
How is it paid? (cash, cheque, into your bank account and so on)?		
When was your and your partner's last pay rise?		

Part 5 - about your earnings continued

vou

Section A

Do you know the date of your next pay rise?	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us the date	Yes No If 'Yes', please tell us the date
	How much will it be?	How much will it be?
	f	f
How much do you and your partner earn in bonuses, tips	f	f
or overtime?	How often is this paid?	How often is this paid?
Are you or your partner	Yes No	Yes No
expecting to leave the job in	If 'Yes', please tell us the expected date	If 'Yes', please tell us the expected date
the near future?		

your partner

Section B About your self-employment

If you or your partner has been self-employed for at least a year you must provide your accounts for the last financial year. If you or your partner have just started a business we will ask you for a projection of your self employed income. If you have been trading for less than a year, we will normally ask for your accounts for the period you have been trading. You may also have to provide bank statements and other evidence to support your accounts. The Benefits Service may invite you for an interview in order to clarify your circumstances.

What kind of work do you and your partner do?				
What is your and your partner's business address?				
Do you and your partner get a business start up allowance?	Yes	🗌 No	Yes	🗌 No
When did you and your partner start trading?				
Are you and your partner sole traders?	Yes If 'No' please give det	□ No ails of the partnersh	Yes ip and your sha	No are of the business
Number of hours worked each week?				

part 6

about your pensions, benefits, allowances and tax credits

We will need to see at least one of the following as proof of each of your benefits or allowances:

- recent benefit award notifications showing current amounts
- most recent tax or pension credit award notification
- letter from the pension provider
- bank statements (showing all transactions for the last two months)
- most recent pension payment advice slips

If you have claimed but not yet received any benefit or allowances you should send proof as soon as it is available. (All documents must be original)

If you do not get the benefit listed, you must tick the box saying 'none'. If you do, please say how much you get each week in the box next to it.

benefit or allowance	you		your part	ner
		f		f
Income support	None		None	
Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based)	None	£	None	f
Jobseeker's Allowance (Contributions based)	None	f	None	£
Employment and Support Allowance (contributions based)	None	f	None	f
Support Component	None	f	None	f
Work related component	None	f	None None	f
Employment and Support Allowance (income related)	None	£	None	f
State retirement pension	None	f	None	f
Pension credit If 'yes', which element: Guarantee credit	Yes	No No	Yes	No No
Savings credit	None	f	None	£
Pension from the civil service	None	f	None	f
Pension from public service	None	f	None	f
Personal pension or pension from earlier employer (please name the pro	None Noiders)		None	
]	f		f
]	f		f
Statutory Sick Pay	None	f	None	f
Incapacity Benefit	None	f	None	f
Statutory Maternity Pay	None None	f	None	f
Maternity Allowance	None None	f	None	f
Universal Credit	None None	f	None	f

Part 6 - about your pensions, benefits, allowances and tax credits continued

benefit or allowance	you		your par	tner
Widowed Parent's Allowance	None	f	None	f
Child Benefit	None None	f	None	f
Attendance Allowance	None	f	None	£
Disability Living Allowance (care component)	None	f	None	£
Disability Living Allowance (mobility component)	None	£	None	f
Personal Independence Payments (Daily Living)	None	f	None	£
Personal Independence Payments (Mobility)	None None	f	None	f
Armed Forces Independence Payments	None	f	None	£
Carer's Allowance	None None	f	None None	f
Do you have an underlying entitlement to Carer's Allowance?	Yes	No	Yes	No
Tax Credits (for example children's or working)	None	f	None	f
		f		f
Severe Disablement Allowance	None None	f	None	f
Industrial Disablement Allowance	None None	f	None None	f
Reduced Earnings Allowance	None None	f	None	f
War Pension	None None	f	None	f
Industrial Widow's Pension	None None	f	None	f
Bereavement Allowance	None None	f	None	f
Have you or your partner applied for any of the above benefits or any other benefits	Yes If 'Yes', please	No give details	Yes	No
for which you are still awaiting a decision?				
Have you or your partner deferred receipt of your State Retirement pension? (You must inform the Benefit Service when you start to	Yes If 'Yes', please	No give details	Yes	No
draw your pension)				

12

about your capital, savings and investments

We will need to see proof of your capital, savings or investments, such as:

- statements from your bank or building society showing all transactions for the last two months
- building society book (recently updated)

part

- bond certificates
- stocks and shares certificates
- unit trust certificates

• statements of PEPs, TOISAS or ISAs You must include any capital held in a current account.

you

your partner

Do you or your partner have any bank or building society accounts, post office account or savings in cash? (You should also include overdrawn or empty accounts)

	Yes No if 'Yes' please give the name	of the bank or b	Yes No building society and the latest b	oalance.
		Amount		Amount
Current accounts	1	f		£
	2	f		f
	3	f		£
	4	f		f
Deposit accounts	1	f		f
	2	f		f
	3	f		f
	4	f		f
TOISAs, PEPs or ISAs	1	f		£
	2	f		f
	3	f		f
	4	f		f
Savings in cash		f		f
	Date paid		Date paid	
Lump sum in respect of a deferred State Retirement pension		f		f
Do you or your partne	er Yes No ts If 'Yes', please give details		Yes No If 'Yes', please give details	

Part 7 - about your capital, savings and investments continued

your partner vou Yes Yes ___ No No Are you or your partner holding any If 'Yes', please give details If 'Yes', please give details money in trust for anyone else? Do you or your partner have any National Savings Certificates or National Savings Bonds? 🗌 Yes 🔛 No Yes No If 'Yes' please give the issue number or type and the amount invested. £ £ **National Savings** 1 Certificates £ £ 2 £ £ 3 £ £ 4 £ £ National Savings 1 bonds £ £ 2 £ £ 3 £ £ 4 £ £ Premium Bonds Do you or your partner have any unit trusts or shares? Yes 🗌 Yes 🗌 No No If 'Yes' please give the name of the company and the number of shares you hold. Name Number Name Number Shares 1 2 3 4 5

Part 7 - about your capital, savings and investments continued

	you		your partner	
		Amount		Amount
Unit Trusts	1	f		f
	2	f		f
	3	f		f
_				
Do you or your parti	ner have any other savings, in	nvestments or	trust funds?	
	Yes No If 'Yes' how much are they wo	rth?	Yes No If 'Yes' how much are they wo	orth?
	f		f	
Have you or your pa	rtner recently received any ba	ckdated benef	it which you have added to	your savings?
	Yes No If 'Yes' please give details		Yes No If 'Yes' please give details	
		_		
property or	land			
Apart from your hor	ne, do you or your partner ou	wn or have a sl	hare in any other property o	r land?
	Yes No If 'Yes', please give details incl	uding the addre	cc	
Are you and your pa	rtner holding any property in	n trust for anyo	one else? If so please give d	etails:
		the last 12 mea	ath c 7	
have you or your pa	rtner sold a property within	the last 12 mor	1115 ?	
	Yes No (We may contact you for more	e information)		
Do you or your part	ner charge rent for any prope	rty other than	vour main home? Ves	No
		in ty, other than		
How much rent do y	ou receive?			
How often should it	be paid?			

8 ot	her incon	ne				
 Any other income which you and your partner have must be declared in this section. This includes details of your grant, loan or bursary if you are a student. We will need to see proof of any other income you and your partner receive. This can be any one of the following: bank statements a building society letter or statement Income/tenancy details for sub tenants or boarders a court order a court order an income award notification invoices and receipts letter from an absent parent confirming maintenance a letter from HM Revenues and Customs notification slips payment slips student loan or grant letter 						
Do you or your pa (This includes inco	-			been declared on this	application form?	
	Yes	🗌 No	Amount	How often is it paid?	When did it start?	
Type of income			f			
Type of income			f			
Type of income			f			
part 9 Ol	utgoings					

If your son or daughter is a student, we will need to see the loan assessment.

If you or your partner make payments to a private pension, we will need to see the pension agreement.

Do you or your partner pay any money to a son or daughter who is a student, as part of a loan assessment?

	you	your partner
рау	Yes No	Yes No
_	If 'Yes', who is it paid to?	If 'Yes', who is it paid to?
ent, as nt?		
	Amount	
	£	£
	How often is it paid?	How often is it paid?
make	Yes No	Yes No
vate	If 'Yes', how much do you pay?	If 'Yes', how much do you pay?
lary	f	f
	How often?	How often?

Do you or your partner make payments towards a private pension other than by deduction from your salary or wages?

private tenants

Please answer the following question:

How many bedrooms are in the property?

You and your partner are private tenants if you pay rent to a private landlord or a housing association, or if Richmond Council has placed you in temporary accommodation with another landlord. We will need to see proof of your residency and rent, from the following list (this must confirm how much rent you pay, the date your tenancy commenced and what is included in your rent):

- a letter from the agent
- a letter from the landlord
- your rent book
- the tenancy agreement
- rent receipts / statements

your tenancy

part

Please give the date your tenancy started	Is it a shorthold tenancy? Yes No
Is the tenancy in your name only?	If 'Yes', what is the end date?
Yes No	
If 'No', what are the names of the other joint tenants?	If 'No', what type of tenancy is it?
	Assured Registered Boarder
	Shared ownership 🗌 Other (please give details) 🗌
Do you sub-let any of this property?	
Yes No	

the property you occupy

Do you live in the whole building? Yes No	What type of accommodati	on do you live in? Semi-detached house
Is there more than one floor in the building? Yes No I If 'Yes', how many floors are there?	Terraced house Flat in a block Flat in a house Hotel or guesthouse	Maisonette Flat over a shop Bedsit or rooms Hostel
Which floors do you live on?	Studio flat	Other (please give details)
Where do you live on this floor? Front Middle Back All		
Is your home: Unfurnished? Partly furnished?	Fully furnished?	

Tell us how many rooms are in your property. If your property is self contained, the 'property' means just the part you live in.

	<u>م</u> م	ens	om	°	<i>.(ns)</i>		No.	3 ⁰⁷
Total number of rooms in the property	Livingon	Fitche	Bedro	Bathi	MUS	Bedsit	Studie	other
Number of rooms solely occupied by you and your family								
Number of rooms you share with other								
households								

Part 10 - private	tenants continu	led		
your rent				
How much rent are you ch	arged? £		int tenant how ent for the prop	
How often do you pay it? Daily Weekly Every calendar month	Fortnightly Every three mo	Eve	ery four weeks	
If your rent includes any of	f the following, please w	rite down how much		ed. If you do not know the at apply to you please write
Heating £		Breakfast		f
Fuel for cooking £		Midday Meal		£
Parking space £		Evening Meal		£
Water rates £		Support Charges		
Council Tax £		General counselling a	and support	f
Hot Water £		Cleaning rooms and v	windows	f
Garden £		Emergency alarms an	d warden	f
Lighting £		Are you or your r	partner or a mer	nber of your household,
Garage £		related to your la	andlord?	noor of your nousenoid,
Who do you pay your rent to Surname	?	Yes L N If 'Yes', what is th	No	
Other names		Is your landlord a	· _ ·	er of yours?
			No 🛄	
Address		If 'Yes', did you liv Yes	ve at this address	s together?
			r partner previou	usly owned the property you
			No 🗌	
Postcode			our home as a co	ondition of your employment?
Telephone number				ousehold get money from a
		trust that also ov	-	
What is the name and addres of the property if different fr		who is responsi		oration inside your home?
		You Your	landlord	property?
			No 🗌	. ,
			bartner use your No	home for business purposes

payment of benefits

Council Tax Reduction: will be paid into your Council Tax account. You will be sent a revised bill.

Private tenants: Generally tenants renting from a Housing Association, a charity or a hostel have a choice how their benefit is paid – either into their own bank/ building society account or to their landlord. Please complete either option 1 or option 2 below.

For all other private tenants, benefit will be paid directly into your account. Please fill in your details in option 1. If you have difficulty managing your affairs it may be possible to pay your landlord. To help the Benefit Service decide if we can do this, complete part 12 of the form. We may need to write to you for more information.

If you do not have a bank or building society account you should contact the payments team on (020) 8871 8769. They will tell you how to get advice about opening a basic bank account.

Options for payment to private tenants

part

1 Paid direct into your bank or building society	This is a safe and easy way to get pay your benefit every two weeks	your Housing Benefit. In most cases, we will in arrears.
Please give the following details		
Name and address of your bank of building society		
	Bank account number	Building society account number
	Bank sort code	Building society roll number
		Type of building society account
Name(s) of account holder(s)		

Option 2 applies to tenants renting from a Housing Association, a charity or a hostel who have a choice about how their benefit is paid. For all other private tenants, benefit will be paid directly into your account. Please fill in your details in Option 1 above.

If you have difficulty managing your affairs, it may be possible to pay your landlord. To help the Benefit Service decide if we can do this, complete part 12 of the form. We may need to write to you for more information.

2

Paid direct to your landlord's bank or building society, if your landlord agrees to accept these arrangements

This method is just as safe and easy as the first, but we will pay your Housing Benefit to your landlord's account instead of yours. We will write to your landlord for his account details. Benefit will generally be paid four weeks in arrears. Please read the section on 'sharing information'. direct payments to landlords

If you rent your property from a private landlord you must fill in this section if you would like us to pay your benefit direct to your landlord. You must answer all questions and give us as much information and evidence as possible. We will use this information to decide whom we pay. If we do decide to pay your landlord, we will write to them for information about their bank details. The decision to pay your landlord will be reviewed regularly.

Please tell us if any of the following would cause you difficulties with paying your rent:

Learning difficulties	Yes	No 🗌
Physical disabilities	Yes	No 🗌
Mental Health problems	Yes	No 🗌
Coping with addiction, for example alcoholism, substance abuse or gambling	Yes	No 🗌

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of the above, please tell us how they would affect you paying your rent.

Do you currently receive any support / help in managing your finances?

Yes No

part

If 'Yes', please tell us who helps you.

Do you have anyone who could help / support you to manage your finances?

Yes	

If 'Yes', please tell us who could help.

No

Do you currently have any rent arrears?

No

Yes

If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how much, and what period the arrears cover.

Part 12 - direct payments to landlords continued

Have you previously had any difficulties in keeping your rent payments up to date?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please tell us why.

Do you have multiple debts?

Yes

If 'Yes', please supply details.

No

Do you have anyone helping you manage these debts?

Yes

If 'Yes', who is helping you?

No

Are any deductions being made from your income to repay debts?

Yes No

Please use the space below to give us any further information in support of your request to pay benefit to your landlord.

backdating benefits

We may be able to backdate your benefit for a limited period, but only if there is a very good reason why you did not claim earlier. If you would like to apply

part

for your claim to be backdated, please give us the dates you think it should be backdated from, and the reason why you did not claim earlier.

Backdated from	If you would like it backdated for a specific period, please give the relevant dates.
Please tell us the reason why you did not claim benefit earlier. We cannot consider your request without this information. You may be required to supply supporting evidence.	

proof to follow

Before you return this form please read through the checklist below and make sure you are sending in all the information we have asked for. We cannot assess your benefit claim until we see proof of every statement you made on this form. The proof we need to see is listed in the notes at the start of each part of the form. We must see original documents not photocopies. If some items of proof are not available you should still return the form – you may lose benefit if you delay. Please tick the boxes to tell us what proof you will send in later.

Remember, if you don't send in the proof with this form it will take longer to deal with your claim.

Identity:

You must send in two items of proof for both you and your partner.

The right to claim public funds:

If you are not a UK citizen you should provide proof that you are entitled to claim public funds.

Part 14 - proof to follow continued

National Insurance:

For both you and your partner, you must provide an official document that includes your National Insurance Number.	
Dependants and child care costs: We need to see proof of Child Benefit for each of your dependants. Child care costs – you must show confirmation from the provider of how much you pay, the times care is provided and their registration number.	
Working Tax Credit / Child Tax Credit: You should provide your award letter confirming how much you get, how it is paid and when it started.	
Non Dependants: Confirmation of your non dependants income	
Income Support, other benefits / allowances: This should be the latest award notice that confirms the type of benefit / allowance, the amount and when it started.	
Pensions: You should provide proof confirming how much you get, how and when it is paid and when it started.	
Earnings: We need to see 5 recent consecutive weekly payslips, 3 recent consecutive fortnightly pay slips or 2 recent consecutive monthly pay slips or a certificate of earnings properly completed and stamped by your employer.	
Capital, savings and investments: You must send in proof of any savings or investments you have, including current accounts. If you are sending in bank statements they should be the two most recent. Savings books must have been recently updated.	
Proof of any other income: You should provide a document confirming how much you get, how it is paid and when it started.	
Rent Liability: This does not apply to Council Tenants. You will need to supply a Tenancy Agreement or if not available, a rent book or a letter from your landlord confirming how much rent you pay, the date your tenancy commenced and what is included in the rent.	
Request to pay your landlord: If you are a private tenant and want us to pay benefit direct to your landlord you must send in supporting evidence.	
Backdating: If you have asked for your claim to be backdated you should supply evidence to support your claim.	

declaration

Changes in your circumstances.

part

While you are getting benefit you must, by law, tell us about any changes in your circumstances which might affect your claim. You will lose benefit if you fail to notify the Benefits Service within 1 month for Housing Benefit and 21 days for Council Tax Reduction of the change. If we pay you too much money because you did not tell us about a change you will have to pay it back.

Remember you are responsible for telling us about changes to your circumstances.

Here are some examples of changes which you must tell us about:

- if there is a change in your income,
- if your benefit changes or stops,
- if anyone joins or leaves your household,
- if anyone in your family goes into hospital,
- if your rent increases,
- if you change address.

Even if someone has filled in this for you, you must sign this declaration if you can. If you have a partner, it would be helpful if they sign below to confirm that all the details about them are correct, but they do not have to sign. Please read this declaration carefully before you sign and date it.

- I understand that you may use any information I have provided in connection with this and any other claim for social security benefits that I have made or may make. The council may give some information to other organisations, such as government departments, local authorities and private-sector companies such as banks and organisations that may lend me money, if the law allows this.
- I know that I must let you know about any change in my circumstances which might affect my claim.
- I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete. I have checked the information myself or have had it read back to me.
- I understand that if I give information that is incorrect or incomplete, you may take action against me. This may include court action.
- I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction, or both. The council may check some of the information with other sources as allowed by the law.

Signature of person claiming	Partner's signature
Date	Date

forms filled in by someone other than the person claiming

Please tell us why you are filling in this form for someone else.

Name of the person who filled in the form	
Signature of the person	
Relationship to the person claiming	

Sharing Information

Sharing Information with your landlord

Sometimes, sharing information with your landlord helps us to deal with your claim quickly and reduces the risk of you falling behind with your rent because of your claim being delayed. We would only share this information with your landlord if you:

- are a local authority tenant; or
- we have agreed to pay benefit direct to your landlord.

In either case under the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018 we need your permission to share information. If you give us permission we would be able to tell your landlord:

- whether or not you had claimed Housing Benefit and, if so, whether or not we have made a decision on your claim; and
- if we need further information to make a decision on your claim and, if so, what information we need.

There may be other information about your claim that we need to check with your landlord, such as the date your tenancy started, before we can make a decision about your claim. If this is the case, we may have to ask your landlord even if you have not given us permission to discuss your claim with them. If you have not given us permission by signing the section below, we will not discuss anything else with your landlord.

We will not give your landlord any information about your personal or household circumstances or your financial circumstances.

Sharing Information with a third party

If you would like us to share information about your claim with someone other than your landlord you should also complete the section below. You may choose for us to share information with anyone else, for example a relative or someone from an advice centre who is helping with your claim. If you wish us to share information with a third party we will give them the same information that we would give to a landlord, but in addition we would also discuss, if asked:

- your personal or household circumstances; and
- your financial circumstances.

I give The London Borough of Richmond Council permission to share information with the following (*please tick either or both*):

My landlord

A third party

Name		
Address		
Telephone number		
Email address		
Signature of claimant	Date	
Signature of claimant	Date	

If you have ticked 'third party' please give their name and address:

Ethnic monitoring at Richmond Council

Please tell us about yourself (please note that you do not have to complete this part of the form if you do not wish to). This information is collected to help ensure we deliver a fair and impartial service to all members of our community.

1.	White British	
	Irish	
	Any other White background (for example European)*	
2.	Mixed	
	White and Black Caribbean	
	White and Black African	
	White and Asian	
	Any other Mixed background*	
3.	Asian or Asian British	
	Indian	
	Pakistani	
	Bangladeshi	
	Any other Asian background*	
4.	Black or Black British Caribbean	
	African	
	Any other Black background*	
5.	Chinese or other ethnic group Chinese	
	Any other background*	

*If you answered 'Any other' to any of the above please enter a description:

The Benefits Service Richmond Council PO Box 72385 SW18 9PG						onfidential eference numbe	r	
		C			of earning	S		
Employee's name	Mr 🗌	Mrs 🗌	Miss	🗌 Ms	□			
Employee's home add	ress:							
Payroll, employee or s	staff num	ber:			Tax o	:ode:		
National Insurance nu	imber:				Occupation:			
Gross earnings, includ past two months if th				ra payme	ents for the past five	weeks if they a	re paid wee	kly, or
Weekly paid employe			ours woi	ked		date started emp	oloyment	
Week ending (write the date)	Hours worked	Gross pay	Income tax £		Superannuation or personal pension schemo £	e Tax Credit £	Other deductions £	Pay after deductions £
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
Monthly paid employ	ees	ho	urs worl	ked		date started emp	oloyment	
Calendar month ended (write the date)	Hours worked	Gross pay £	Income tax £		Superannuation or personal pension scheme £	e Tax credit £	Other deductions £	Pay after deductions £
1								
2								
Method of payment If you have given this e	cash employee		BACS		heque gross onths, please give the		mount of th	e rise.
I certify that the infor Employer's name and								
Name of person comp	oleting fo	orm:				Official st	amp	
Telephone:						- Official St	P	
Signature:								
Position in firm:								
Date:					if there is no a	official stamp, please	nrovide a cur	norting

J.

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If you have questions about this form please call (020) 8871 8080. www.richmond.gov.uk/benefits benefits@richmond.gov.uk