

Housing Benefit Circular

Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA

HB S3/2017

SUBSIDY CIRCULAR

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| WHO SHOULD READ | All Housing Benefit staff. Officers preparing claims for Discretionary Housing Payment. |
| ACTION | For information |
| SUBJECT | 2017/18 Discretionary Housing Payments government contribution for English and Welsh local authorities |

Guidance Manual

The information in this circular does not affect the content of the HB Guidance Manual.

Queries

If you

- want extra copies of this circular/copies of previous circulars, they can be found on the website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-benefit-for-local-authorities-subsidy-circulars>
- have any queries about the
 - **technical content of this circular**, contact
Email: housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
 - **distribution of this circular**, contact
Email: housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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2017/18 Discretionary Housing Payments government contribution for English and Welsh local authorities

Introduction

1. This circular provides details of the government contribution and overall expenditure limit for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) for 2017/18 for English and Welsh local authorities (LAs).

Background

2. Since 2011/12, additional DHP government contribution funding has been made available to assist with the transition of claimants into the welfare entitlement that resulted from the Housing Benefit (HB) welfare reforms.
3. To help LAs manage the impact of HB reforms announced in the Summer Budget 2015, the overall DHP government contribution funding was increased in both 2015/16 and 2016/17. The overall DHP funding for 2017/18 will be £185 million, an increase of £35 million (23%) compared with 2016/17.
4. The DHP government contribution comprises of funding for four separate areas of support; Core funding, Local Housing Allowance (LHA), Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy (RSRS) and benefit cap.
5. The distribution of the DHP funding is based on the effect of each element on individual LAs.

DHPs and Scotland

6. DHPs for Scotland will be fully devolved from 1 April 2017, with the Scotland Act 2016 implementing the Smith Commission Agreement. Consequently, the Department for Work and Pensions are obliged to transfer DHP funding to Scotland.
7. From 1 April 2017, the obligations for DHPs, and their allocations to Scottish LAs, will therefore be the responsibility of the Scottish Government. For 2017/18, £18.5 million (from the overall DHP £185 million funding) will be transferred to Scottish Government who will inform Scottish LAs of their individual allocations.

Distribution of the government contribution for English and Welsh LAs

8. The overall DHP funding for English and Welsh LAs is £166.5 million.

Core funding (£18 million)

9. We have retained the same methodology for distributing core funding as in 2016/17, which is pro-rata the core allocation based upon the most recent figures available in respect of the level of expenditure for HB in 2014/15. This is based on the [DHP Order 2001 Article 2 \(a\)](#)

LHA (£27 million)

10. For 2017/18 the methodology for distributing LHA has changed. Since April 2016, the maximum LHA rates have been frozen, replacing the 1% cap. To ensure a more equitable funding allocation, the 2017/18 methodology is based on the estimated reduction in HB entitlement per LA from the freeze rates in 2017/18. Therefore, this funding is allocated on the basis of need indicated in the latest data.

RSRS (£54 million)

11. The allocation of the RSRS DHP funding in 2017/18 will be the same as in previous years. The distribution of £54 million of the funding will be based on the aggregate RSRS losses in each LA area, calculated from the latest statistics available from [Stat-Xplore](#) on numbers of claimants with deductions and the average weekly deduction.
12. RSRS funding contains an element for allocation to the most fragile¹ rural LA areas affected by this policy. The nine most rural LAs in England and Wales that received this element of the funding in 2016/17 will be allocated the same level of the funding which totals £1.5 million.

Benefit cap (£67.5 million)

13. For 2016/17, benefit cap funding is allocated according to LAs proportion of the estimated total reduction to benefit under the lower cap introduced in November 2016. This is in line with the methodology used for allocating funding for the lower benefit cap used in 2016/17.

Queries

14. Please ensure that any queries relating to the allocation of the government contribution towards DHPs are sent to

housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

¹ Five broad areas of concern were identified: shortage of housing stock, future house building, increase in applications for DHPs, communication issues and potential effect on fragile remote communities.

2017/18 DHP government contribution LA allocation

| Local Authority | Central Government Contribution | Overall Limit (x 2.5) |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Adur | £155,109 | £387,773 |
| Allerdale | £229,373 | £573,433 |
| Amber Valley | £227,139 | £567,848 |
| Arun | £361,943 | £904,858 |
| Ashfield | £304,158 | £760,395 |
| Ashford | £297,764 | £744,410 |
| Aylesbury Vale | £296,315 | £740,788 |
| Babergh | £129,507 | £323,768 |
| Barking and Dagenham | £1,062,769 | £2,656,923 |
| Barnet | £1,709,939 | £4,274,848 |
| Barnsley | £723,185 | £1,807,963 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | £128,957 | £322,393 |
| Basildon | £550,936 | £1,377,340 |
| Basingstoke and Deane | £433,655 | £1,084,138 |
| Bassetlaw | £223,030 | £557,575 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | £304,975 | £762,438 |
| Bedford | £525,589 | £1,313,973 |
| Bexley | £641,277 | £1,603,193 |
| Birmingham | £5,283,667 | £13,209,168 |
| Blaby | £99,974 | £249,935 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | £446,531 | £1,116,328 |
| Blackpool | £420,949 | £1,052,373 |
| Blaenau Gwent / Blaenau Gwent | £267,330 | £668,325 |
| Bolsover | £179,699 | £449,248 |
| Bolton | £938,809 | £2,347,023 |
| Boston | £160,016 | £400,040 |
| Bournemouth | £715,520 | £1,788,800 |
| Bracknell Forest | £244,422 | £611,055 |
| Bradford | £1,416,491 | £3,541,228 |
| Braintree | £287,852 | £719,630 |
| Breckland | £258,849 | £647,123 |
| Brent | £2,650,670 | £6,626,675 |
| Brentwood | £109,090 | £272,725 |
| Bridgend / Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr | £378,460 | £946,150 |
| Brighton and Hove | £1,132,756 | £2,831,890 |
| Bristol, City of | £1,470,276 | £3,675,690 |
| Broadland | £150,031 | £375,078 |
| Bromley | £726,861 | £1,817,153 |
| Bromsgrove | £103,018 | £257,545 |
| Broxbourne | £343,681 | £859,203 |
| Broxtowe | £141,614 | £354,035 |
| Burnley | £227,148 | £567,870 |

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|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Bury | £368,133 | £920,333 |
| Caerphilly / Caerffili | £610,525 | £1,526,313 |
| Calderdale | £407,895 | £1,019,738 |
| Cambridge | £243,719 | £609,298 |
| Camden | £1,000,486 | £2,501,215 |
| Cannock Chase | £186,894 | £467,235 |
| Canterbury | £301,079 | £752,698 |
| Cardiff / Caerdydd | £1,368,916 | £3,422,290 |
| Carlisle | £213,953 | £534,883 |
| Carmarthenshire / Sir Gaerfyrddin | £428,778 | £1,071,945 |
| Castle Point | £210,961 | £527,403 |
| Central Bedfordshire | £458,879 | £1,147,198 |
| Ceredigion / Ceredigion | £288,867 | £722,168 |
| Charnwood | £228,631 | £571,578 |
| Chelmsford | £334,395 | £835,988 |
| Cheltenham | £206,154 | £515,385 |
| Cherwell | £309,040 | £772,600 |
| Cheshire East | £571,577 | £1,428,943 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | £650,927 | £1,627,318 |
| Chesterfield | £249,627 | £624,068 |
| Chichester | £232,844 | £582,110 |
| Chiltern | £143,909 | £359,773 |
| Chorley | £166,041 | £415,103 |
| Christchurch | £94,720 | £236,800 |
| City of London | £21,810 | £54,525 |
| Colchester | £414,027 | £1,035,068 |
| Conwy / Conwy | £230,668 | £576,670 |
| Copeland | £209,523 | £523,808 |
| Corby | £191,418 | £478,545 |
| Cornwall | £1,405,134 | £3,512,835 |
| Cotswold | £115,595 | £288,988 |
| County Durham | £1,300,793 | £3,251,983 |
| Coventry | £1,236,832 | £3,092,080 |
| Craven | £122,372 | £305,930 |
| Crawley | £436,154 | £1,090,385 |
| Croydon | £1,760,650 | £4,401,625 |
| Dacorum | £430,639 | £1,076,598 |
| Darlington | £292,556 | £731,390 |
| Dartford | £209,792 | £524,480 |
| Daventry | £127,318 | £318,295 |
| Denbighshire / Sir Ddinbych | £259,595 | £648,988 |
| Derby | £645,073 | £1,612,683 |
| Derbyshire Dales | £81,374 | £203,435 |
| Doncaster | £886,088 | £2,215,220 |
| Dover | £272,104 | £680,260 |
| Dudley | £819,817 | £2,049,543 |
| Ealing | £2,274,206 | £5,685,515 |

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| East Cambridgeshire | £122,810 | £307,025 |
| East Devon | £201,742 | £504,355 |
| East Dorset | £110,347 | £275,868 |
| East Hampshire | £155,932 | £389,830 |
| East Hertfordshire | £229,749 | £574,373 |
| East Lindsey | £298,955 | £747,388 |
| East Northamptonshire | £171,884 | £429,710 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | £473,423 | £1,183,558 |
| East Staffordshire | £222,338 | £555,845 |
| Eastbourne | £352,999 | £882,498 |
| Eastleigh | £230,425 | £576,063 |
| Eden | £158,459 | £396,148 |
| Elmbridge | £292,268 | £730,670 |
| Enfield | £2,366,118 | £5,915,295 |
| Epping Forest | £298,970 | £747,425 |
| Epsom and Ewell | £181,359 | £453,398 |
| Erewash | £252,156 | £630,390 |
| Exeter | £239,864 | £599,660 |
| Fareham | £153,931 | £384,828 |
| Fenland | £247,903 | £619,758 |
| Flintshire / Sir y Fflint | £365,571 | £913,928 |
| Forest Heath | £101,061 | £252,653 |
| Forest of Dean | £142,127 | £355,318 |
| Fylde | £59,473 | £148,683 |
| Gateshead | £630,766 | £1,576,915 |
| Gedling | £183,793 | £459,483 |
| Gloucester | £345,285 | £863,213 |
| Gosport | £204,225 | £510,563 |
| Gravesham | £294,995 | £737,488 |
| Great Yarmouth | £274,282 | £685,705 |
| Greenwich | £994,460 | £2,486,150 |
| Guildford | £253,784 | £634,460 |
| Gwynedd / Gwynedd | £726,374 | £1,815,935 |
| Hackney | £2,118,714 | £5,296,785 |
| Halton | £406,692 | £1,016,730 |
| Hambleton | £124,826 | £312,065 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | £855,248 | £2,138,120 |
| Harborough | £72,028 | £180,070 |
| Haringey | £1,752,132 | £4,380,330 |
| Harlow | £305,579 | £763,948 |
| Harrogate | £171,804 | £429,510 |
| Harrow | £892,439 | £2,231,098 |
| Hart | £100,392 | £250,980 |
| Hartlepool | £416,211 | £1,040,528 |
| Hastings | £412,154 | £1,030,385 |
| Havant | £268,129 | £670,323 |
| Havering | £661,643 | £1,654,108 |

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| Herefordshire, County of | £304,988 | £762,470 |
| Hertsmere | £317,856 | £794,640 |
| High Peak | £119,773 | £299,433 |
| Hillingdon | £962,882 | £2,407,205 |
| Hinckley and Bosworth | £133,712 | £334,280 |
| Horsham | £210,316 | £525,790 |
| Hounslow | £988,071 | £2,470,178 |
| Huntingdonshire | £266,029 | £665,073 |
| Hyndburn | £156,957 | £392,393 |
| Ipswich | £422,078 | £1,055,195 |
| Isle of Anglesey / Ynys Môn | £162,656 | £406,640 |
| Isle of Wight | £349,867 | £874,668 |
| Isles of Scilly | £227 | £568 |
| Islington | £1,214,397 | £3,035,993 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | £895,344 | £2,238,360 |
| Kettering | £193,755 | £484,388 |
| King's Lynn and West Norfolk | £299,486 | £748,715 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | £1,026,126 | £2,565,315 |
| Kingston Upon Thames | £471,801 | £1,179,503 |
| Kirklees | £753,733 | £1,884,333 |
| Knowsley | £725,153 | £1,812,883 |
| Lambeth | £1,500,749 | £3,751,873 |
| Lancaster | £234,626 | £586,565 |
| Leeds | £2,337,180 | £5,842,950 |
| Leicester | £1,186,024 | £2,965,060 |
| Lewes | £259,329 | £648,323 |
| Lewisham | £1,523,921 | £3,809,803 |
| Lichfield | £136,254 | £340,635 |
| Lincoln | £242,505 | £606,263 |
| Liverpool | £2,104,859 | £5,262,148 |
| Luton | £1,051,986 | £2,629,965 |
| Maidstone | £325,633 | £814,083 |
| Maldon | £91,566 | £228,915 |
| Malvern Hills | £123,177 | £307,943 |
| Manchester | £2,557,484 | £6,393,710 |
| Mansfield | £278,334 | £695,835 |
| Medway | £843,891 | £2,109,728 |
| Melton | £63,952 | £159,880 |
| Mendip | £198,233 | £495,583 |
| Merthyr Tydfil / Merthyr Tudful | £208,688 | £521,720 |
| Merton | £557,523 | £1,393,808 |
| Mid Devon | £118,429 | £296,073 |
| Mid Suffolk | £109,317 | £273,293 |
| Mid Sussex | £207,133 | £517,833 |
| Middlesbrough | £754,596 | £1,886,490 |
| Milton Keynes | £836,933 | £2,092,333 |
| Mole Valley | £115,840 | £289,600 |

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| Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy | £190,346 | £475,865 |
| Neath Port Talbot / Castell-nedd Port Talbot | £475,314 | £1,188,285 |
| New Forest | £324,613 | £811,533 |
| Newark and Sherwood | £208,580 | £521,450 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | £1,169,857 | £2,924,643 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | £206,450 | £516,125 |
| Newham | £1,801,456 | £4,503,640 |
| Newport / Casnewydd | £562,196 | £1,405,490 |
| North Devon | £178,464 | £446,160 |
| North Dorset | £109,801 | £274,503 |
| North East Derbyshire | £194,158 | £485,395 |
| North East Lincolnshire | £466,303 | £1,165,758 |
| North Hertfordshire | £283,334 | £708,335 |
| North Kesteven | £140,972 | £352,430 |
| North Lincolnshire | £395,413 | £988,533 |
| North Norfolk | £169,430 | £423,575 |
| North Somerset | £480,749 | £1,201,873 |
| North Tyneside | £570,266 | £1,425,665 |
| North Warwickshire | £90,383 | £225,958 |
| North West Leicestershire | £173,364 | £433,410 |
| Northampton | £545,641 | £1,364,103 |
| Northumberland | £692,086 | £1,730,215 |
| Norwich | £500,961 | £1,252,403 |
| Nottingham | £1,532,896 | £3,832,240 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | £293,612 | £734,030 |
| Oadby and Wigston | £75,399 | £188,498 |
| Oldham | £683,177 | £1,707,943 |
| Oxford | £509,495 | £1,273,738 |
| Pembrokeshire / Sir Benfro | £246,390 | £615,975 |
| Pendle | £140,095 | £350,238 |
| Peterborough | £687,855 | £1,719,638 |
| Plymouth | £725,055 | £1,812,638 |
| Poole | £398,162 | £995,405 |
| Portsmouth | £780,693 | £1,951,733 |
| Powys / Powys | £567,465 | £1,418,663 |
| Preston | £367,539 | £918,848 |
| Purbeck | £83,681 | £209,203 |
| Reading | £789,994 | £1,974,985 |
| Redbridge | £1,022,986 | £2,557,465 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | £490,554 | £1,226,385 |
| Redditch | £153,589 | £383,973 |
| Reigate and Banstead | £271,256 | £678,140 |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taff / Rhondda, Cynon, Taf | £666,632 | £1,666,580 |
| Ribble Valley | £46,638 | £116,595 |
| Richmond Upon Thames | £349,006 | £872,515 |

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|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Richmondshire | £141,129 | £352,823 |
| Rochdale | £712,983 | £1,782,458 |
| Rochford | £143,073 | £357,683 |
| Rossendale | £104,143 | £260,358 |
| Rother | £190,214 | £475,535 |
| Rotherham | £818,673 | £2,046,683 |
| Rugby | £153,063 | £382,658 |
| Runnymede | £171,156 | £427,890 |
| Rushcliffe | £119,577 | £298,943 |
| Rushmoor | £240,201 | £600,503 |
| Rutland | £32,880 | £82,200 |
| Ryedale | £192,939 | £482,348 |
| Salford | £971,870 | £2,429,675 |
| Sandwell | £1,352,884 | £3,382,210 |
| Scarborough | £277,570 | £693,925 |
| Sedgemoor | £238,511 | £596,278 |
| Sefton | £720,214 | £1,800,535 |
| Selby | £118,942 | £297,355 |
| Sevenoaks | £198,116 | £495,290 |
| Sheffield | £1,453,560 | £3,633,900 |
| Shepway | £320,758 | £801,895 |
| Shropshire | £531,974 | £1,329,935 |
| Slough | £760,571 | £1,901,428 |
| Solihull | £374,002 | £935,005 |
| South Bucks | £144,747 | £361,868 |
| South Cambridgeshire | £165,659 | £414,148 |
| South Derbyshire | £131,157 | £327,893 |
| South Gloucestershire | £452,644 | £1,131,610 |
| South Hams | £125,327 | £313,318 |
| South Holland | £148,246 | £370,615 |
| South Kesteven | £249,168 | £622,920 |
| South Lakeland | £107,283 | £268,208 |
| South Norfolk | £182,400 | £456,000 |
| South Northamptonshire | £86,860 | £217,150 |
| South Oxfordshire | £207,124 | £517,810 |
| South Ribble | £142,045 | £355,113 |
| South Somerset | £287,247 | £718,118 |
| South Staffordshire | £133,755 | £334,388 |
| South Tyneside | £619,755 | £1,549,388 |
| Southampton | £884,615 | £2,211,538 |
| Southend-on-Sea | £713,686 | £1,784,215 |
| Southwark | £1,236,085 | £3,090,213 |
| Spelthorne | £294,771 | £736,928 |
| St Albans | £230,821 | £577,053 |
| St Edmundsbury | £208,549 | £521,373 |
| St. Helens | £586,846 | £1,467,115 |
| Stafford | £169,281 | £423,203 |

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| Staffordshire Moorlands | £95,450 | £238,625 |
| Stevenage | £276,042 | £690,105 |
| Stockport | £515,039 | £1,287,598 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | £576,512 | £1,441,280 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | £824,638 | £2,061,595 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | £197,593 | £493,983 |
| Stroud | £153,989 | £384,973 |
| Suffolk Coastal | £167,566 | £418,915 |
| Sunderland | £1,046,848 | £2,617,120 |
| Surrey Heath | £111,416 | £278,540 |
| Sutton | £408,897 | £1,022,243 |
| Swale | £454,797 | £1,136,993 |
| Swansea / Abertawe | £676,515 | £1,691,288 |
| Swindon | £507,168 | £1,267,920 |
| Tameside | £603,464 | £1,508,660 |
| Tamworth | £159,093 | £397,733 |
| Tandridge | £165,669 | £414,173 |
| Taunton Deane | £196,652 | £491,630 |
| Teignbridge | £217,294 | £543,235 |
| Telford and Wrekin | £653,885 | £1,634,713 |
| Tendring | £597,804 | £1,494,510 |
| Test Valley | £210,577 | £526,443 |
| Tewkesbury | £137,669 | £344,173 |
| Thanet | £424,684 | £1,061,710 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan / Bro Morgannwg | £330,286 | £825,715 |
| Three Rivers | £191,053 | £477,633 |
| Thurrock | £553,612 | £1,384,030 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | £284,178 | £710,445 |
| Torbay | £481,236 | £1,203,090 |
| Torfaen / Tor-faen | £379,554 | £948,885 |
| Torridge | £129,819 | £324,548 |
| Tower Hamlets | £1,812,716 | £4,531,790 |
| Trafford | £470,475 | £1,176,188 |
| Tunbridge Wells | £235,459 | £588,648 |
| Uttlesford | £106,286 | £265,715 |
| Vale of White Horse | £198,315 | £495,788 |
| Wakefield | £1,083,279 | £2,708,198 |
| Walsall | £1,089,275 | £2,723,188 |
| Waltham Forest | £1,182,525 | £2,956,313 |
| Wandsworth | £1,259,579 | £3,148,948 |
| Warrington | £310,153 | £775,383 |
| Warwick | £209,030 | £522,575 |
| Watford | £353,614 | £884,035 |
| Waveney | £266,086 | £665,215 |
| Waverley | £205,705 | £514,263 |
| Wealden | £241,005 | £602,513 |
| Wellingborough | £189,256 | £473,140 |

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| Welwyn Hatfield | £306,531 | £766,328 |
| West Berkshire | £317,099 | £792,748 |
| West Devon | £172,151 | £430,378 |
| West Dorset | £173,380 | £433,450 |
| West Lancashire | £210,455 | £526,138 |
| West Lindsey | £182,508 | £456,270 |
| West Oxfordshire | £178,198 | £445,495 |
| West Somerset | £158,504 | £396,260 |
| Westminster | £1,405,376 | £3,513,440 |
| Weymouth and Portland | £200,884 | £502,210 |
| Wigan | £685,485 | £1,713,713 |
| Wiltshire | £770,512 | £1,926,280 |
| Winchester | £171,871 | £429,678 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | £261,836 | £654,590 |
| Wirral | £872,473 | £2,181,183 |
| Woking | £227,210 | £568,025 |
| Wokingham | £196,279 | £490,698 |
| Wolverhampton | £1,062,606 | £2,656,515 |
| Worcester | £220,893 | £552,233 |
| Worthing | £267,423 | £668,558 |
| Wrexham / Wreccsam | £353,025 | £882,563 |
| Wychavon | £176,925 | £442,313 |
| Wycombe | £386,572 | £966,430 |
| Wyre | £155,896 | £389,740 |
| Wyre Forest | £209,165 | £522,913 |
| York | £256,596 | £641,490 |
| Total | £166,500,000 | £416,250,000 |