

Working out your Local Housing Allowance if you are aged under 35



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Local Housing Allowance is a way of working out new claims for Housing Benefit for tenants renting accommodation from a private landlord.

It also affects tenants already getting Housing Benefit who move into accommodation rented from a private landlord.

Local Housing Allowance was introduced on 7 April, 2008. Local Housing Allowance will not affect people living in Council accommodation or rented from the Orkney Housing Association.

To work out how much benefit you might get you need to find out what Local Housing Allowance rate your benefit will be based on.

If you are aged under 25 (35 from January 2012), are single and do not live with any dependants, you can only get the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate. You can find out what the shared room rate is by checking leaflet **HB(LHA)5**. You can get this from us at the address below or by visiting our website at www.orkney.gov.uk

You also need to find out if you can get the full amount of benefit. The amount of benefit you can get may be affected by:

- any money you have coming in;
- any savings you have;
- how much your rent is;
- if you share paying the rent with someone else.

For more information about this, please get in touch with us at the address below.

Marcus

Marcus is single. He is aged 23.

He is entitled to one bedroom for himself. As he is under 25 (35 from January 2012), he is entitled to the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate.

There are extra rules if you are:

- a care leaver aged under 22
- severely disabled

For more information about these, please contact us at the address below.

Joint tenants

If you are a joint tenant this might affect the benefit you can get. For more information about joint tenants, please get in touch with us at the address below.

For details about this, please see **HB(LHA)6: Local Housing Allowance: rights and responsibilities**.

Further information

If you want more information:

- phone the Council's Housing Benefit Section on (01856) 873535 Ext 2116, or Direct Dial (01856) 886312
- visit, or write to, the Council's Housing Benefit Section at Orkney Islands Council, Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY
- look on our website on www.orkney.gov.uk
- email us at benefits@orkney.gov.uk
- visit www.direct.gov.uk

Remember that this leaflet is a guide only. It is not meant to say exactly what your legal rights are. While we have tried to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the date shown below, it is possible that there may be incorrect information or some ideas may be oversimplified. Also, please remember that the information in this leaflet is likely to become less accurate over time because of changes to the law.

September 2011