

Under Occupancy DHP groups

Provisions for the award of DHP in respect of under occupancy reduction only

Group No	Description	Details of support
Family		
1	Family no actual spare bedroom and bedroom requirement due to change within 1 year	Allow with means test until bedroom requirement changes
2	Family, not actually got a spare bedroom, bedroom requirement not due to change within a year but large age gap between the children expected to share, E.g. two boys aged 14 and 2	Allow with means test to ensure no maintenance, etc. that would enable customer to be able to afford the shortfall.
3	Family, no actual spare bedroom but not falling into one of the above groups, E.g. boy and girl aged 7 and 5	Allow with means test
4	Spare room but expecting a baby	Allow (up to bed requirement once child born)– no means test
5	Visiting children, spare bedroom a requirement of custody order etc.	Allow with means test up to bedroom requirement

6	Children <u>temporarily</u> in care	Allow with means test (up to bedroom requirement when children at home) if there is a realistic prospect of child returning home. May need social services to confirm the situation.
Disabled		
7	Actual spare room but unreasonable to move due to <u>substantial</u> disabled adaptations <u>or</u> vital medical equipment being stored, for example dialysis or oxygen equipment	If substantial adaptations allow without means test (regs not intended to affect these households). If moderate adaptations only, then means test and work with tenant/landlord to see if there is better housing solution.
8	Couples sleeping in separate rooms due to disabilities or moderate adaptations	Allow with means test. However, look at nature of disabilities, benefits in payment and may need medical practitioners report to support the need for separate rooms. If moderate adaptations only then means test and work with tenant/landlord to see if there is a better housing solution.
9	Has a spare bedroom and unreasonable to move due to disability, closeness to family support	Allow with means test due to long term nature of the award. Liaise with landlord/tenant to see if there is alternative accommodation in the same area.

		Waive the means test if there are mental health issues resulting in an inability to cope with budgeting etc.
Carers		
10	Caring responsibilities. Includes grandparents regularly caring for grandchildren to assist a family under the supervision of social services.	Allow with means test due to long term nature of the award. Liaise with landlord/tenant to see if there is alternative accommodation in the same area.
11	Foster carers/new foster carer applicants and prospective adopter parents. We can allow 1 extra bedroom (amended legislation March 2013)	Allow with means test, unless operating as self employed foster carer. These can normally be identified by being in receipt of Working Tax Credit. If there is any further bedroom requirement for additional children the expectation is that we pay DHP.
Other		
12	Young person aged under 25 with a history of homelessness and now settled	Allow with means test but work with tenant and landlord to see if there is a more sustainable long term housing solution. DHP not a long term solution.
13	Reaching retirement age within 1 year	Allow with means test but liaise with landlord/tenant to see if a smaller property would be more appropriate.

14	Has spare bedroom, has periods of employment and current period has extended beyond 13 week protection or no entitlement to protection but good prospect of future employment	Not reasonable to expect to move if temporarily unemployed. Allow with means test for up to 13 weeks then review.
15	Has spare bedroom, not unreasonable to move but unable to afford the shortfall and looking for alternative accommodation	Allow with means test for up to 13 weeks (longer if reasonable) as long as working with landlord to find alternative accommodation.
16	Has spare bedroom, unable to afford, not looking for alternative accommodation and no immediate prospect of increasing income	Low DHP priority, but consider each case on its own merits.
17	High risk offenders, with community support packages	Allow with means test due to long term nature of the award where, in the interest of public safety, it is unreasonable for them to move.