

Join Unite Community today

Unite community members are coming together across the UK to defend those most at risk because of these welfare changes. Unite community is open to anybody, aged 16-116, out of work, retired or studying. If you want to find out how you can be part of this, visit www.unitetheunion.org/community

Unite believes that many of the government reforms to welfare benefits are unfair and unnecessary, and we are campaigning against them. To get involved email: community@unitetheunion.org or go to www.ourwelfareworks.com



WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT THE BENEFIT CHANGES?

- DWP Helpline: 0845 6057 064
DWP Text Phone: 0845 608 3557
Citizens Advice Bureau: 0844 4111 44 (landline)
..... 0300 3300 650 (mobile)
Housing and Council Tax Benefit: Contact your local council

www.unitetheunion.org



BENEFIT CHANGES

ARE YOU PREPARED?



BEDROOM

TAX

FROM APR 2013

NO. 3

The Government is making big changes to welfare benefits. Find out how the Changes affect you.



www.unitetheunion.org

3. HOUSING BENEFIT

From April 2013 the Government is reducing the amount of housing benefit some people can claim. Under the new rules if you have more bedrooms than the Government says you need, you will lose part of your Housing Benefit.

QUESTION

Will my benefit be affected by the bedroom tax?

ANSWER

The bedroom tax will apply if you:

- Claim Housing Benefit.
- Are of working age.
- Live in a property considered too large for your needs.

The bedroom tax will not apply if you and your partner receive pension credits. In April 2013 the pension credit age will be around 61 years and six months.

QUESTION

What happens if I have a spare bedroom?

ANSWER

If you have one 'spare' bedroom your Housing Benefit will be cut by 14%. If you have two or more spare bedrooms it will be cut by 25%.

If your benefit is cut you will have to pay your landlord the difference between your housing benefit and your rent.

QUESTION

What is a spare bedroom?

ANSWER

Under the new rules you will be allocated one bedroom for:

- Each adult couple.
- Any other person aged 16 or over.
- Two children of the same sex under 16.
- Two children under the age of 10 regardless of their sex.
- A carer (who does not normally live with you) if you or your partner need over night care.

Exceptions **will not** be made if:

- You and your partner need to sleep apart because of a medical condition.
- The main residence of your children is another address, but you have a spare room for when they stay with you.

EXAMPLE

Mr and Mrs Smith live in a two bedroom house costing £70 a week in rent. At the moment Housing Benefit covers the full cost of their rent. Under the new rules they will have one spare bedroom.

Their Housing Benefit will be reduced by 14% of their rent (14% of £70 = £9.80). Their Housing Benefit will be reduced by £9.80 to £60.20 per week. They will have to pay £9.80 per week towards their rent.