

Factsheet 505 – 19 November 2008 (1 page)

Council Tax Benefit

Council Tax Benefit is a National Welfare Benefit to help people on a low income with savings of less than **£16,000** pay their Council Tax. It is a means-tested benefit, administered by District/City Councils. Anyone with savings of over £16,000 would not normally be eligible for Council Tax Benefit, unless they are aged 60 or over and getting the 'guarantee credit' of Pension Credit.

What does means-tested mean?

It means that when you complete a claim form you have to provide evidence of all your income and capital. Your claim will then be verified and assessed based on this information.

The savings limit of £16,000 - is that per person?

No - the limit is £16,000 for a claimant and spouse or partner. If you are the only person claiming, the rate still remains at £16,000.

But I already receive a Council Tax Discount because I live on my own?

You can still apply even if your bill is reduced, the benefit will simply be assessed on the remaining amount you have to pay.

What is a low income?

This figure varies depending on the number of people living in the house, their incomes and disabilities. See below an example of the level of benefit available:

Mr & Mrs Y are aged 79 and 74 and live in their own property, and have to pay £25.00 per week for Council Tax. Their joint weekly income is £230.00, made up of two State Retirement Pensions and a Works Pension. They have savings of £15,000. Based on this level of income and savings, Mr & Mrs Y would receive benefit of **£16.79** per week.

Want to find out more? Contact Care Direct on 0845 1551 007

All information received will be treated as confidential.

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but if you would like it in a different format such as Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email: customer@devon.gov.uk