

Help to pay your Rent and/or Council Tax

If you are finding it difficult to pay your Council Tax bill or manage your money, you may find the advice on our website at www.kingston.gov.uk useful. There is further information and advice available at www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk and www.gov.uk

If you live in the borough and you are on a low income you may qualify for Housing Benefit (HB) or a Council Tax Reduction (CTR), or you may qualify for both. Use our online benefits calculator and claim form to see how much HB or CTR you could get. You can find our online benefits calculator at www.kingston.gov.uk/benefits

The maximum reduction you can receive is 100% of your Council Tax liability but this depends on factors such as your income, savings and the size of your household.

If you rent a property or room from a private landlord, the amount of Housing Benefit you receive may be set by the Local Housing Allowance (LHA). This may be lower than your actual rent. The LHA is dependent on where you live as well as the size of your household. Please visit our website for more information at www.kingston.gov.uk/benefits

The maximum amount of HB you would receive will be restricted by the relevant LHA rate. The actual amount of HB will depend on factors such as your income, savings and the size of your household.

If you rent a property from Kingston Council or a Housing Association (also known as a Registered Social Landlord) the maximum HB you can usually receive will be 100% of the weekly eligible rent. HB cannot take service charges into account such as amounts towards heating, lighting and water rates. However, if you have more bedrooms than you need for your household the maximum amount of HB you can receive will be restricted. The actual amount of HB will depend on factors such as your income, savings and the size of your household.

If you are on a low income you may be able to claim benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support or Employment and Support Allowance. Please call Jobcentre Plus on 0800 055 6688 for more information. If you have reached State Pension Credit age you may be entitled to Pension Credit, please call 0800 99 1234 for more information. You can also find information about all of these benefits at www.gov.uk

If you are on a low income you may be entitled to Tax Credits. You do not need to have children to qualify for Working Tax Credit. Please visit www.hmrc.gov.uk or call 0345 300 3900 for more information. There is an online calculator which will estimate how much Tax Credit you may be entitled to.

For independent advice on debt problems

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.adviceguide.org.uk or

For England: 03444 111 444 / 020 3166 0953

For Wales: 03444 77 20 20 / 020 8185 0717.

Please note there is a charge for calling these numbers

Gov.uk at www.gov.uk

Other free advice is available

AdviceUK

www.adviceuk.org.uk

National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.org

0800 804 4000

Money Advice Service

www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk

0800 138 7777