

Durham County Council
PO Box 238
Stanley
County Durham
DH8 1FP

Tel: 03000 264 000
On Line: www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax
Email: help@durham.gov.uk



Account Ref:
CTDISCEXMT

Name & Address

Date:

Council Tax Discount Application - Severe Mental Impairment (SMI)

For the purpose of this statutory discount / reduction in Council Tax liability, a person is considered to be severely mentally impaired if he/she has a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning, however caused, which appears to be permanent.

You should complete this application form in respect of any persons who you consider meet this definition and therefore should be disregarded in terms of determining Council Tax liability. Please ensure both the application form and the required Doctors certificate is returned.

Your discount / reduction can only be awarded from the earliest date that **both** the Doctors certificate confirms **and** there is entitlement to one of the allowances detailed overleaf.

If you have any queries or need assistance in completing this form please contact us on the telephone number above.

Please note you will not have to pay for your Doctor to complete this certificate.

Full name and address of person who meets the SMI definition and who should be disregarded for Council Tax purposes:

Date of Birth of the person who meets the SMI definition and who should be disregarded for Council Tax purposes:

Number of adults living in the property over the age of 18:

Resources

Durham County Council, PO Box 238, Stanley, Co Durham, DH8 1FP

Main Telephone 03000 26 0000

Text messaging service: 07786027280 – please start your message with the word INFO

Paul Darby

Head of Finance & Transactional Services

www.durham.gov.uk

In order to qualify, the person who meets the SMI definition and who should be disregarded for Council Tax purposes should also satisfy one of the benefit conditions outlined below. Please tick the box next to the allowances(s) that they receive, or could receive.

Please send a copy of the letter from the Department of Work and Pensions which shows the entitlement to benefit.

Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance	
Working Tax Credit including a disabled worker element	
Attendance Allowance	
Employability Supplement/Allowance	
Severe Disablement Allowance	
Constant Attendance Allowance	
Disability Living Allowance (high or middle rate care component) or the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	
Universal Credit which includes an amount in respect of having limited capability for work or work related activity	
Armed Forces Independence Payment	
An increase in the rate of Disablement Pension	
Job-Seekers Allowance including a disability premium	
Income Support including Disability Premium	

Please confirm the earliest date that person who meets the SMI definition and who should be disregarded for Council Tax purposes entitlement to the qualifying benefit commenced:

Declaration

I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that failure to supply or giving false information is an offence for which a penalty may be imposed. I also understand that I must inform the Council Tax Section as soon as there is any change in the information.

Signature:

Date:

Telephone:

Email:

If you have completed this form on behalf of the applicant please provide your details below in case we need to contact you.

Full Name:

Telephone:

Address:

Relationship to person who meets the SMI definition and who should be disregarded for Council Tax purposes:

You must notify the Council immediately if there is a change in your circumstances which may affect this information. Contact details are provided above.

Data Protection Act

For information: In line with Data Protection law we may use information you give us to prevent or detect fraud or other crimes. We may also share it with other Council Services or public organisations if they need it to carry out their duties.

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Doctor's Certificate
Council Tax application for status discount for a person experiencing
Severe Mental Impairment

In respect of:

Name:

Address:

This certificate will help the Council decide whether the person named above should be treated as severely mentally impaired. For the purpose of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 a person is considered to be severely mentally impaired if he/she has severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning (however caused) which appears to be permanent.

Please tick the box next to the statement that matches your opinion most closely and then sign the certificate.

In my opinion the applicant **is** severely mentally impaired for the purposes of Council Tax

Please state from which date:

In my opinion the applicant **is not** severely mentally impaired for the purposes of Council Tax

Doctors Signature:

Doctors Full Name:

Doctors Status (GP etc)

Date:

Surgery/Hospital Address:

Surgery/Hospital Official Stamp

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Severe Mental Impairment Explanatory Notes

Below are the answers to some questions about who should be disregarded, under this category, for the purpose of assessing Council Tax discount.

Q How is “Severely Mentally Impaired” defined?

A For the purpose of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 a person is severely mentally impaired if he/she has a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning (however caused) which appears to be permanent.

Q What does this mean in practical terms?

A A person will be disregarded on the grounds of being severely mentally impaired if:

(i) He/she is confirmed as being severely mentally impaired by a registered medical practitioner.

and

(ii) He/she is entitled to one of the following benefits:-

- Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit including a disabled worker element
- Attendance Allowance
- Employability Supplement/Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (high or middle rate care component) or the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Income Support Inc. Disability Premium
- Universal Credit which includes an amount in respect of having limited capability for work or work related activity
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- An increase in the rate of Disablement Pension Job-Seekers Allowance including a disability premium
- Job-Seekers Allowance including a disability premium

Q What should I do if the person(s) I am applying for are not in receipt of one of the above benefits but I think they may be entitled to it?

A If you would like more information about any benefits contact the Department for Work and Pensions (08457 123456) before applying for the discount.

Q How do I apply?

A Fully complete this form and return to the address as shown on the letterhead. Once this has been assessed, you will be notified of the Council’s decision.

If you have any other queries about this discount or would like more information regarding Council Tax, please contact us.