

The types of savings and, in the case of non-cash savings, how they have been calculated

Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Overpayments

These overpayments of CTR have resulted from an investigation and deemed recoverable unless the claimant could show the overpayment was caused by official error and they could not reasonably have known they were being overpaid. Council Tax is a daily charge and therefore the overpayment figures reflect this.

Council Tax Reduction Future Savings

The future savings are based upon a 104-week multiplier of savings identified. This is the average amount of time that a customer takes to notify the authority of a change to their circumstances.

Housing Benefit (HB) Overpayments

HB Overpayments are overpaid amounts of Benefit that have been paid (whether to the claimant their landlord or someone else) and to which the claimant was not entitled. These overpayments are calculated weekly by the Benefits team.

Housing Benefit Future Savings

The future savings are based upon a 104-week multiplier of savings identified. This is determined to be the average amount of time that a customer takes to notify a local authority of a change to their circumstances.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

This is a discretionary scheme where the local authority can provide extra money to help a claimant meet their housing costs; examples include help with a rent shortfall, rent deposits and rent in advance. The local authority looks at how much they can pay and for how long the customer can receive the payment. DHPs are only for extra help towards Housing Costs and are not for help with Council Tax. Thus, when investigating a Housing Benefit fraud, if it is discovered that the customer has had this extra help towards their housing costs (i.e. received DHP) we would seek to recover it. However, it is not covered in the same legislation as HB or CTR overpayments and therefore cannot be included as part of any sanction.

Council Tax Discount

Claimants may qualify for a Council Tax reduction if they are living on their own or with students, or providing care for, or living with, people with special circumstances. The main discount the Fraud team deals with is Single Person Discount (SPD) which is a 25% reduction when there is one adult occupant in the property.

Council Tax Discount Future Increase

The future savings are based upon a 104-week multiplier of savings identified. This is determined as the average amount of time that a customer takes to notify the authority of a change to their circumstances.

Social Housing Properties Recovered

Social Housing is more affordable than private renting and usually provides a more secure long-term tenancy. These properties are owned by the local authority or Housing Associations and are, in the first instance, for homeless people, people in cramped conditions or people that have medical conditions made worse by their current home. If people are not living in their Social Housing property as their main and principal home or are illegally subletting then the landlord can recover the property and re-allocate it to somebody else on the waiting list. The value of recovering a property is calculated currently at £42K.

Housing Applications Cancelled

Customers apply for Social Housing by completing a form declaring their circumstances. If they have lied on the form or not provided their true circumstances then their application is stopped. The value attributed to each application is £4,600, which is derived from the average cost of temporary accommodation for each family that is housed.

Right to Buy (RTB) Cancelled

RTB is a government scheme designed to help tenants in council housing to buy their homes with, very often, a very large discount. Tenants get 35% discount for houses and 50% for flats if they have been a tenant for 3-5 years; after 5 years the discount goes up by 1% for every year they have been a tenant in a house and 2% for flats, up to 70% or £102,400, whichever is the lower figure.

(NB – the RTB discounts have changed following the budget on 30 October 2024, but the figures above were relevant for the 2023/24 financial year).