

Council Tax discounts and reductions



This easy read document tells you about Council Tax discounts and reductions for people with disabilities and their carers.



Discounts and reductions are where you pay less than the full amount of money.

Discounts



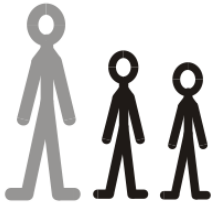
A discount on your council tax bill is not based on the money you have, or the money of anyone you live with.



It depends on **who** lives in your house.



There are different reasons you might not have to pay as much Council Tax.



You will get a 50% discount on your Council Tax if no one aged over 18 years old lives in your home.

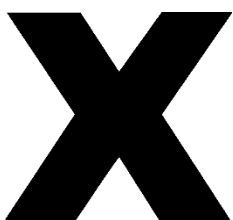


You will get a 25% discount if only 1 adult lives in your home.



Any household with 2 or more people over age 18 must pay the full council tax bill.

People who are not included in calculations about Council Tax



When adding up how many people live in your home, some people can be 'disregarded'.



Disregarded, here means they are not included in calculations made about Council Tax.



People might be 'disregarded' because they are carers or have a disability.



If there are 2 people in your household but one is 'disregarded' (also known as being classed as invisible), you will get a 25% discount on your Council Tax because your household will be seen as a 1-person household for Council Tax.



Carers



Carers can be classed as invisible if they are living with a person and caring for them for at least 35 hours a week.



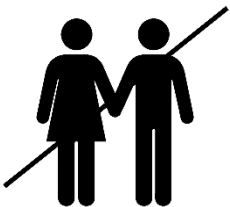
The person being cared for must be getting either:

- The Care Component of Disability Living Allowance at the middle or higher rate.
- Attendance Allowance at either rate.
- The Daily Living Component of Personal Independence Payment at either rate.



The person being cared for must also:

- Be over 18 years old.



- Must not be the partner of the person looking after them.



For example, Mrs Green lives with her mother who she looks after for 35 hours a week. Her mother gets the higher rate of Attendance Allowance.



They get a 25% discount because as a carer Mrs Green is 'invisible' and so the house is seen as having only 1 adult living there.



If there are 2 people living with the disabled person and each cares for the person for 35 hours a week, both carers can be classed as invisible. This means they will still get a discount.

People with a severe mental impairment (SMI)



People with a severe mental impairment (SMI) who live alone do not have to pay Council Tax if they can't manage things on their own.



This includes people with:



- A severe mental illness.



- A learning disability.



- Alzheimer's disease or dementia.



To not have to pay Council Tax, the person must:



- Have a certificate from a doctor confirming the Severe Mental Impairment.



- Be getting a disability benefit such as:



- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component at the middle or high rate.



- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) daily living component at either rate.



- Attendance Allowance (AA) at either rate.



- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)



- Incapacity Benefit



- Income Support (If this includes a disability premium)



People with a serious mental impairment that do not live alone are 'invisible' and may get a discount on their Council Tax.



For example, Mrs Green's mother has Alzheimer's and gets the higher rate of Attendance Allowance. She is classed as invisible.



Mrs Green is also classed as invisible because she cares for her mother for at least 35 hours a week.



They will get a 50% discount on their Council Tax as there are no 'visible' adults in the house.

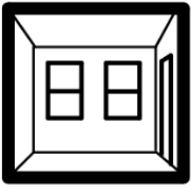
Disabled Reduction



Being able to get a Disabled Reduction does not depend on the money you have.



You may get a reduction if anyone who lives in your home (including you or a child) is disabled and your home has:



- A room that is needed and used by someone because of their disability, like a downstairs bedroom.



- A second bathroom or kitchen needed by a disabled person.



- Enough floor space to use a wheelchair in the house.



These facilities or rooms do not have to be specially installed or adapted; they just must be needed because of the disability of someone living in the house.



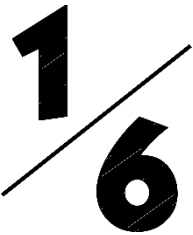
The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on which of the 8 valuation bands your home is in.



Band A is for the cheapest homes, and the bands go up to Band H for the most expensive homes.



If you can get the Disabled Reduction, your home will be treated as if it is in a lower band, so if your home is in band D, you will pay the amount for a band C home instead.



If you can get the reduction and live in a Band A home you will still get a reduction. This reduction is 1/6 of your total bill.



For example, if your Band A Council tax bill is £1050 and you can get a reduction, you will get £175 off your bill.

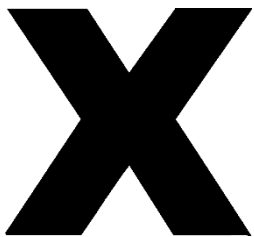
'Granny Flats' and annexes



If you have a separate, self-contained unit in your property, it is often called a Granny Flat or an annexe.



If your Granny Flat or annexe is the home of a relative who has a disability or is over the age of 65, it will not be seen as separate from the main home when it comes to Council Tax.

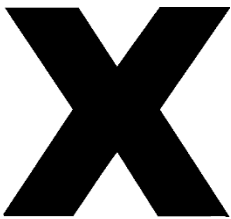


This means that you do not have to pay Council Tax for the annexe and the bill for your main property will not go up either.

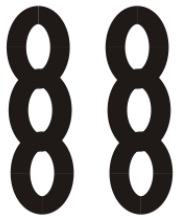
Carers' Unoccupied Homes



An **unoccupied** home means a home that doesn't have anyone living in it.



Carers whose home is unoccupied because they are caring for someone somewhere else do not have to pay Council Tax on the empty home.



This is the same whether you own your home or if you rent it.



It applies if the person you care for:



- Is over 65 years old.



- Is disabled.



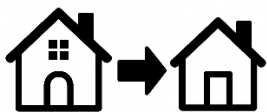
- Is ill.



- Has alcohol or drug dependence issues.



- Has a mental illness or disorder.



You must be not living in your own home because you are living somewhere else to care for someone.

How to get your discount, disabled reduction or exemption



The person responsible for paying the Council Tax bill must contact their local Council Tax office and ask for a form.



The person who pays the Council Tax must fill in the form.



Sometimes, your doctor may need to give information to help prove you are allowed to have the reduction, discount or exemption.



Sometimes, someone from the council may visit your home.



There are no limits on backdating the discounts and reductions if you met the requirements at the time you are claiming for.



The contact telephone numbers of the local Council Tax offices in Nottinghamshire are:



- Broxtowe: 01159 177 777



- Ashfield: 01623 457 400



- Mansfield: 01623 463 463



- Newark and Sherwood: 01636 650 000



- Bassetlaw: 01909 533 234



- Rushcliffe: 01159 819 911

What if the Council says I am not allowed the discount or reduction?



If the Council says you are not allowed to have the disabled reduction or discount, this is known as being **refused**.



You can write to the council to tell them why you do not agree with the decision they have made.



If your letter to the Council doesn't make a difference, you can then appeal the decision.



If paying your Council Tax causes you hardship, you can ask the council to reduce your bill by the amount of the reduction or

discount you have been refused. This means you can ask if you can pay less money.



It is best to get advice if you want to do this to see if you have a good case.

Things to remember



- You can get both a discount and a reduction on your Council Tax bill.



- You can also claim a **rebate** on your Council Tax if you or the people you live with have a low income. This means you may be able to pay less Council Tax.



If you need more information or advice on Council Tax discounts and reductions, you can contact Nottinghamshire County Council by using the Customer Service Centre.

Customer Service Centre



Our Customer Service Centre can answer most of your questions and help with information and form filling.



There are several ways to contact them, including:



Web: [Use our online contact form](#)



Telephone: 0300 500 80 80



Relay UK

Text Relay: 18001 0115 977 4050

People who have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to communicate via text can use the Text Relay service through the [Relay UK app](#).



Sign Video

People who use British Sign Language to communicate can use [the SignVideo app](#) to speak with us.

Links in this document

Nottinghamshire County Council – contact us form

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform)

Relay UK app

relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html

SignVideo app

signvideo.co.uk/download

For the Standard English web page version of this information, go to:

[Council Tax discounts and reductions for people with disabilities and their carers | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/adult-social-care/social-care-publications/council-tax-discounts-and-reductions>

This easy read was first published 22 June 2026.
This information was last updated 22 June 2026.