

Welcome to the Summer Factsheet 2022

This seasons focus is on financial support and understanding what discounts are available based on the income you receive. So many different grants and rebates have been made available and it is important to identify where help is available and seek assistance to access them. In the long run this can help with budgeting through the cost of living crisis.

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The Household Support Fund.

This is distributed to households with children on free school meals and via local voluntary organisations. Croydon council are also providing additional support for [households struggling to pay for fuel and housing costs](#). If you need urgent support with food, loneliness or isolation please contact [Extra council support for residents through cost of living crisis – Newsroom \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)

Free school meals and uniforms

Free school meals, and clothing grants to help parents buy school uniforms are available for pupils whose parents or carers receive certain benefits. [Apply for free school meals here](#) [Free school meals and help with uniform costs | Croydon Council](#)

Government support and Council tax energy rebate

According to the Government's guidance, this payment will be given to more than eight million households on means tested benefits, including those receiving the following:

- Universal credit
- Income-based jobseekers allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Income support
- Working tax credit
- Child tax credit
- Pension credit

Claimants will need to be in receipt of one of these benefits, or have begun a successful claim, as of Wednesday 25 May. Means tested benefits are awarded based on your income, how much capital you have and your household circumstances.

Mr Sunak said that the package means almost all of the eight million most vulnerable UK households will receive at least £1,200 of support. The payment will be issued directly to households in two lump sums, with one paid from July and another in autumn. It will be tax-free, will not affect the benefit cap and will not affect existing benefit awards, with payments from HMRC for those on tax credits following shortly after."

For joint benefits claimants the Government advises: "If you have a joint claim with a partner, you will get one payment of £650 for both of you, paid in 2 lump sums from July 2022 and in autumn 2022, if eligible."

Council tax energy rebate payment – Croydon Council

Visit Croydon Councils website for information and advice on the £150 energy rebate for properties in bands A to D.

If you live in an eligible property and you pay your council tax by direct debit, your payment will generally be paid directly to your bank account. You do not need to do anything in the meantime, unless your council requests further details from you.

[Council Tax energy rebate | Croydon Council](#)

The eligibility criteria

- You must be liable for the council tax at the property on the 1 April 2022.
- Be in council tax band A - D (or band E if a disabled band reduction applies).
- The property must be your main home.
- Some properties which are exempt from council tax will receive the rebate – Class N (Homes occupied by students), S (persons under 18), U (severely mentally impaired) or W (annexes occupied by dependant relative).
- Residents receiving Council Tax Support.

Second homes and empty properties will not be eligible.

These payments will start at the end of May 2022.

If you receive 100% council tax support, you are still entitled to the energy rebate and you will be contacted if further information is needed to process the payment. If you do not have a direct debit set up, you will need to apply to the council for the rebate and this will take longer.

Residents using other methods of payment may need to contact council tax to confirm payment arrangements to receive their rebate.

You can check your council tax band here [Check your Council Tax band - GOV.UK](#)
 A copy of the full guidance can be found here [Support for energy bills - the council tax rebate 2022-23: billing authority guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPCs)

If you are in receipt of means-tested benefits, then you may already qualify for support with health costs and should speak to an advisor.

A PPC lets you get as many NHS prescriptions as you need for a set price. So, if you regularly pay prescription charges, a PPC could save you money.

The prescription charge in England is £9.35 per item.

A PPC costs

£30.25	for 3 months
£108.10	for 12 months

How much you can save

Number of prescribed medicines you need each month	Saving with a 12 month PPC	Saving with a 3 month PPC
2	More than £115 a year	More than £25 in 3 months
3	More than £225 a year	More than £50 in 3 months
4	More than £340 a year	More than £75 in 3 months

Click below for further information and to apply.

[Prescription Prepayment Certificates \(PPCs\) | NHSBSA](#)

Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount

If you're unemployed and looking for work, you may get discounted travel in London.

Discounts available:

- Get 50% off pay as you go [adult fares](#) to travel on bus, Tube, tram, DLR, London Overground, Elizabeth line (except between West Drayton and Reading) and most National Rail services in London

- Buy and use a child rate 7 Day, monthly or longer period [Travelcard](#) or [Bus & Tram Pass](#)
- Buy discounted paper [single or return tickets](#) from National Rail

Who is eligible?

You must be in receipt of:

- Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit, be aged between 18-24 and unemployed for 13-39 weeks
- Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit, be aged 25 or over and unemployed for 13-52 weeks
- Incapacity Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support and actively engaged with an adviser in returning to employment

In the first few months of commuting to your new job, you may also be eligible for help with your fares. Contact your [local Jobcentre Plus office](#) for more information and to apply.

Apply for a Disabled Persons Freedom Pass

A disabled persons freedom pass provides a discount on travel costs for people living with mobility problems. If you believe you fulfil the eligibility criteria and are entitled to a Disabled Persons Freedom Pass you need to complete an application form. [Disabled Person's Freedom Pass | Croydon Council](#)

You will be asked to provide evidence of your eligibility and a colour passport sized photograph.

Disabled persons Freedom Pass eligibility

To be eligible for a disabled persons Freedom Pass:

- Your sole or principal residence in London

And

- Have any of the statutory disabilities listed in the Transport Act 2000.

Residency

Your London home needs to be your 'sole' or 'principal' residence, which means you live there the majority of the time. You need to be able to provide proof of where you live. [Check what proof is acceptable](#)

If you move out of London you are no longer eligible for a Freedom Pass. You may be eligible for a concessionary fares pass from your new local authority, which will still allow you to travel free on Transport For London buses. For further information

please clickhere: <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/freedom-pass/disabled-persons-freedom-pass/apply>

The statutory disabilities which make someone eligible for a disabled persons Freedom Pass are:

- People who are blind or partially sighted
- People who are profoundly or severely deaf
- People without speech
- People who have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has left them with a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to walk
- People who do not have arms or have a long-term loss of the use of both arms
- People who have a learning disability that is defined as 'a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning'
- People who, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, would have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

London boroughs may, at their discretion under exceptional circumstances, issue Freedom Passes to disabled people that do not meet one of the statutory eligibility criteria. For more information go to our [discretionary Freedom Pass page](#)
[Find out how to apply](#)

Universal credit: Passported benefits

The extent to which eligibility to Universal Credit passports the claimant(s), and their household, to other 'passported' benefits, such as free school meals and health costs is constantly changing as more claimants enter the system.

Initially, all UC claimants had entitlement to passported benefits. However since then, earnings requirements have been added.

The following links are to information and announcements about the different passported benefits:

Healthy Start Scheme	Universal Credit is a qualifying benefit for the Healthy Start Scheme for pregnant women, mothers and children who are either entitled to or who are the responsibility of a person entitled to universal credit, with an earned income (after deduction of tax, national insurance and pension contributions) of £408 or less per assessment period.
Free School Meals	In England , from 1 April 2018, a child may be able to get free school meals if the parent/guardian gets Universal Credit and the household's net income is no more than £616.67 in the preceding (month) assessment period (there are rules which allow for averaging net income over

	a longer period and some transitional protection for those already in receipt of free school meals) see GOV.UK for more information.
Health costs	<p>You qualify for help with health costs in England, Wales and Scotland if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive UC and had net earned income of £435 or less in the last UC assessment period; or • Receive UC which includes an element for a child and/or you (or your partner) had limited capability for work and work related activity and had net earned income of £935 or less in the last UC assessment period <p>If you are part of a couple, then these thresholds apply to your combined income</p> <p>According to the NHS website, currently not all health costs claim forms have a tick-box for UC. In those cases the box for income-based Jobseeker's Allowance should be ticked instead.</p>
Funeral costs	Claimants who get universal credit may qualify for help with funeral costs. There are other entitlement conditions associated with help with funeral costs , including rules about the claimant's relationship with the deceased.
Other passported benefits	<p>There are many other passported benefits that may be relevant for UC claimants. For further information please go to www.gov.uk</p> <p>You can call us for further welfare benefits advice</p>

Benefits advice

We have a welfare rights advisor who can provide welfare rights advice including debt advice, support to identify benefit entitlement and applying for grants. [Contact us about benefits](#). 07305 953422 or email cscatsq@outlook.com

Case study

Tenant is a single mother with two children, currently pregnant. Tenant is in receipt of the legacy benefits: Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (HB/CTS). Tenant also claims Child Benefit for both children. Tenant lives in a Temporary on Licence (TOL) two-bedroom property.

Tenant's HB stopped in January 2022 as she did not respond to an invite to complete a HB/CTS review. Tenant has been off sick for the past couple of months and in and out of hospital. She was aware that HB/CTS had been suspended but firstly, did not receive a copy of the invite from the housing benefit department to review the claim and secondly, did not have the capacity / ability to complete it.

We called the tenant and offered a telephone appointment to complete the form with her. Tenant was in the hospital at that present time but was reassured that the appointment could still take place.

A telephone appointment was booked and the review form was completed and submitted. Tenant also us that she had a call from the school, advising that the Free School Meals had stopped and she asked me we could help her with having it reinstated. The free school meals had stopped as HB was suspended. We liaised with the housing benefit department to request that they continue the FSM.

Once the HB was reviewed, £3,257.74 of HB (19 weeks rent) was backdated and paid into the tenant's rent account. Tenant received a backdate of CTS of £298.11 which was credited to the Council Tax bill. Both HB and CTS resumed weekly entitlement as before.

FSM were reinstated and backdated.

The Tenant was extremely happy and grateful and stated that having the stress or rent and council tax removed from her, aided her recovery.