

Benefits
are
changing

Welfare Reform Factsheet

Extra help with moving home

If you live in a Council or Housing Association home and have one or more 'spare' bedrooms, your Housing Benefit may be restricted – this is often referred to as the 'bedroom tax'. Children are expected to share a bedroom.

This factsheet gives information about the extra help available to you if are affected by the 'bedroom tax' and decide to move to a smaller home.

The Priority Downsizing Waiting List

If you want to move to a smaller property, you can apply to join the priority downsizing waiting list.

We will make two reasonable offers of accommodation to you. If you refuse both, you will be suspended from the priority downsizing waiting list and will not receive any more offers.

Swapping / exchanging your home with another tenant

You can swap homes with another Council or Housing Association tenant. The other home does not need to be in Cardiff.

You can find tenants looking to exchange homes at www.homeswapper.co.uk

Help with the shortfall

If you cannot afford to pay the shortfall in your rent yourself, you may be able to receive Discretionary Housing Payments. These payments can help with the reduction in your Housing Benefit while you wait to move home.

To be eligible for these payments:

- You must be live on the Priority Downsizing Waiting List.
- You must have selected at least one area in Cardiff where there is a high availability of the size property you need.
- You must be registered and have a live account on Homeswapper.

Homes with disabled adaptations

If your home has adaptations to help with a disability, Cardiff Accessible Homes and the Disabled Facilities Grants section of the Council will work with you to:

- Help you find a property where adaptations are no longer needed, or
- Replace your adaptations at a new smaller home.

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Are YOU ready?



Help with removal costs

You may be entitled to £250 from the Discretionary Housing Payments fund to help with your removal costs. This money will be paid by the Housing Benefits section into your bank account.

To get this help you must be moving to a new Council or Housing Association home which is smaller than your current home. Your new home does not need to be in Cardiff.

You can apply for this help when you sign for your new tenancy.

Help with setting up your new home

If you are a **Council tenant**, you may also be able to claim a Welfare Reform Disturbance Payment. This payment is £250 to help with the costs of setting up your new home. It will be paid by the Council's Social Lettings Unit into your bank account.

You can apply for this help when you sign for your new tenancy.

Some Housing Associations are also offering help. **Housing Association tenants** should contact their landlords for further information.

Help if you want to rent privately

If you want to move to a privately rented home, you may be able to get help with a bond or rent in advance. To get help, you must:

- be affected by Welfare Reform, or have a good reason for needing to move home,
- have found a new home in Cardiff that you are ready to move into,
- be able to afford the rent in your new home.

For more information on this scheme you can visit the Housing Options Service at the Housing Options Centre at Hansen Street (Off Tresillian Terrace), Cardiff, CF10 5WD, or call them on 029 2057 0750.

Where can I get more information about moving home?

The Cardiff Housing website aims to help people looking for a home by offering information about rented and affordable accommodation. Landlords can also advertise their properties, and get information about required accommodation standards, accreditation options and other issues.

You can visit the website at www.cardiffhousing.co.uk

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact us in one of the following ways:

- **By Telephone:** 029 2053 7111
- **By email:** housingenquiries@cardiff.gov.uk
- **By visiting one of our Hubs around the city:** please contact us for more details or visit www.cardiff.gov.uk/hubs

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

Help is available in many languages at the Hubs.