

Key welfare reforms affecting housing

Change	Sector affected	Date
Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates capped and set at 30th percentile of local rents, not 50th	Private	2011
First phase of uprating of non-dependent deductions	Private & Social	2011
Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) for single people living in shared accommodation extended from under 25s to under 35s	Private	2012
Bedroom tax (Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy) - Housing Benefit reduced for under-occupying tenants of working age .	Social	2013
Benefit Cap for working age households - caps the total amount of benefit a household can receive at the national average earnings	Private & Social	2013
First Universal Credit new claims in Scotland . To be followed by a phased migration of existing claimants.	Private & Social	2014
Uprating of working-age benefits and tax credits capped at 1%	Private & Social	2014
Family Premium in Housing Benefit will be removed for new claims and new births from April 2016.	Private & Social	April 2016
Freeze working age benefits and LHA rates for 4 years - applicable amounts for Housing Benefit From 2016/17 to 2019/20	Private & Social	April 2016
Backdating of Housing Benefit limited to 4 weeks rather than 6 months	Private & Social	April 2016
Housing Benefit payments limited to 4 weeks for claimants who are outside Great Britain	Private & Social	April 2016
Reduced Benefit Cap for working age households - Reduced to £20k (£13,400 for single people) a year outside London	Private & Social	Phased introduction from April 2016

Entitlement for 18-21 year olds - End automatic entitlement to housing element of Universal Credit. Does not affect young people currently on Housing Benefit	Private & Social	April 2017
Housing Benefit entitlement for social sector tenants capped at private sector Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates	Social	April 2018 (for tenancies starting from April 2016)