



# Council Tax

## 2017 - 2018

Please **read** this, it forms  
part of your Council Tax Bill



## What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is how local councils, police and fire authorities pay for their services. It is charged on domestic properties.

## What does it pay for?

The money is split between Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Derbyshire Fire Authority, North East Derbyshire District Council and local parish councils. The proportion that goes to each of these bodies is shown on the front of your bill. For full details of the expenditure details for the different bodies and the reasons for any change from previous years please visit our website at [www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk), on the home page select the resident symbol at the top of the page then select Council Tax from the list. If you require a printed copy of that information please contact us, our details are show in the how to contact us section below.

## Who is liable to pay?

Normally people aged 18 or over if they own or rent the property. Everyone with the same legal interest in the property is equally liable for payment of the Council Tax. The owner may be liable instead of the resident in certain circumstances.

## Council Tax Valuation Bands

All domestic properties are put in to one of eight bands, based on values in April 1991:

Band	Value £	Band	Value £
A	40,000 or less	B	40,001 to 52,000
C	52,001 to 68,000	D	68,001 to 88,000
E	88,001 to 120,000	F	120,001 to 160,000
G	160,001 to 320,000	H	More than 320,000

## Exempt Properties

Some properties do not have to pay Council Tax for example an unoccupied property after someone has died and probate has not been granted.

## Discounts

Full Council Tax is charged if two or more people aged 18 or over live in a property. A discount of 25% is allowed if there is only one person aged 18 or over living in the property. Some people are not counted when we work out how many people are living in a property for example, people in prison, full time students, people who are severely mentally impaired and 18 or 19 year olds who are still at school.

If a property is unoccupied and unfurnished a discount of 100% is granted for up to 3 months from the date it became in that state after which the full charge is due.

A discount of 100% will be granted for up to 12 months to properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished if they are uninhabitable due to them requiring or undergoing major repair work or structural alterations, after which the full charge will be due.

In the case of properties that are unoccupied and furnished they are liable for the full charge with no "free" period.

## Disabled People

If you or someone who lives with you needs a room, second bathroom or kitchen, or extra space to use a wheelchair indoors you may qualify for a reduction in your Council Tax.

## Appeals

If you think your property has not been valued correctly or if your property has special features for a disabled person that reduce the value of your property and you do not think they have been taken into account in the valuation band of your property you can appeal by writing to the Listing Officer, Valuation Office Agency, Ground Floor, Ferrers House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AB. In the case of incorrect valuations your appeal should be made within six months of you becoming the taxpayer.

If you think that you should not be the person liable for payment of the Council Tax, or you have been refused a discount or exemption you should appeal initially to the Revenues Section, the details are shown in the how to contact us section below.

You must continue to make payment during an appeal; if your appeal is successful any overpayment will be refunded to you.

## Help with your bill

If you are unemployed or on a low income you may qualify for a reduction in your council tax and also any rent that you pay. Please note that all claimants who are not classed as pensioners will have at least 8.5% of their council tax to pay. Fill in a claim form straight away as the reduction is normally only granted from the Monday after we receive the form. Claim forms are available from any of our offices.

Council Tax payers can now request to pay their Council Tax over the whole 12 months of the financial year upto and including March.

## What will happen if I don't pay on time?

If you do not pay your instalments by the dates on your bill we may send a reminder. If you pay in the time given you can carry on paying monthly, if you don't you will lose the right to pay by instalments and the whole years charge is due. You will only receive two reminders in any year, if you fall behind a third time you will lose the right to pay by instalments and the balance for the year becomes due within seven days.

If you receive a summons, contact the Revenues Section who will discuss your circumstances and try to agree a payment arrangement with you. If you don't pay in full or contact us to make an arrangement your debt may be passed to enforcement agents for collection and you may have to pay additional costs.

## Data Matching

The Government requires us to take part in the National Fraud Initiative, a data matching exercise. The Council Tax information will be provided to the Audit Commission for data matching and cross checking to data from other organisations to prevent and detect fraud. The information we hold will be used for the effective and efficient administration of the Council's activities as appropriate. We may also use external credit agencies to verify information given on claims for exemptions, discounts or reductions.

## Further details?

If you have any queries, would like further details on any council tax matters or wish to apply for a discount, exemption or reduction please contact us as shown below.

## How to contact us

In writing: Revenues Section, North East Derbyshire District Council, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG  
By telephone: 01246 217600  
E-mail: [revenues@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk)



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