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Benefits Section
PO Box 524
13 Tonbridge Road
Maidstone
Kent ME16 8HG
Phone: 01622 602557



Housing Benefit
and
Council Tax Benefit

Backdating

**If you have a good reason
for not claiming earlier,
you can ask us to consider
backdating your benefits.**



This leaflet explains about backdating benefit. You can get more information from our Benefits Office at:

Benefits Section
PO Box 524
13 Tonbridge Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8HG.

Phone: 01622 602557
E-mail: benefits@maidstone.gov.uk
Website: www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk

The Benefits Office is open
Monday to Thursday from
8.30am to 5pm and on
Fridays from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

When will my benefit start?

Your benefit will normally start from the Monday after we receive your claim form. If you receive either Income Support (IS) or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA-IB), and you make a claim within four weeks of your application for IS or JSA-IB, your benefit claim will normally start on the Monday after IS or JSA-IB is awarded.

Can you backdate my benefit?

We will not usually backdate benefit. However, if you can show that you had good reasons for not claiming benefit earlier, we may backdate your benefit. (We can only backdate benefit for up to 52 weeks from the date we receive your claim for backdating.)

What do you consider to be 'good reasons'?

Unfortunately, the benefit regulations do not say what are, and what are not, 'good reasons', so we must consider each case individually. Before we can backdate benefit, we must be satisfied that anyone else of the same age, and with the same health and experience as you, would probably also not have been able to claim.

Not knowing that you could claim benefit earlier will not normally be considered as a 'good reason'. However, not claiming because you were in hospital or had severe health problems, or a close relative had died, could be considered as 'good reasons'. 'Good reasons' must apply for the whole period you're asking us to backdate your benefit for.

How do I apply for backdating?

If you want to ask us to backdate your Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, you should fill in the form on the right, explaining why you did not claim benefit earlier. You must also enclose any relevant proof, for example, a doctor's letter.

Application for you to backdate my benefit

My full name:

My benefit reference number:

The address I want the backdated benefit for:

The date my benefit started: / /

I want you to consider backdating my benefit to start from: / /

Please consider my application for backdating benefit. I have good reasons for not applying for benefit earlier. Here are the reasons.

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Declaration. As far as I know, the details on this form are a true picture of my circumstances. I understand that if I give incorrect information or withhold information, I may have to repay any payments I have received.

Signature:

Date: / /