



EXTENDED BENEFIT PAYMENTS

An Extended Benefit Payment is a continuation of your Housing Benefit or Local Council Tax Support (or both) for up to four weeks when you start a new job or increase your working hours/earnings and as a result, are no longer entitled to either:

- A qualifying income-related benefit i.e Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance Income Based (JSA/IB) or Employment Support Allowance –Income Related (ESA/IR), or
- A qualifying contributory benefit i.e Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Employment Support Allowance (Contribution based)

HOW MUCH DO I GET?

You will normally receive the same amount of Housing Benefit and/or Local Council Tax Support as you did in the last week before you started work or increased your hours.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE PAYMENT

To be eligible for an Extended Payment under the **qualifying income-related benefits scheme**, the following qualifying conditions must be met:

You or your partner must have stopped getting Income Support, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) because you have either started work or increased your hours or earnings (remunerative 16 hours or more).

The new job (or increased hours or earnings) must be expected to last for at least 5 weeks

You must have been continuously in receipt of Income Support, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) for 26 weeks immediately before the qualifying income related benefit ceased.

You or your partner may have been in receipt of JSA(C) at some point during the 26 week qualifying period but you must be in receipt of IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IR) at the point that you started work or increased your hours/earnings.

Any period that a partner is receiving a qualifying income-related benefit counts towards the 26 week period, providing your partner received this throughout the 26 week period and they are still your partner at the point that you started work or increased your hours/earnings.

To be eligible for an Extended Payment under the **qualifying contributory benefits scheme**, you must meet the following criteria:

You or your partner must have stopped getting Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or ESA(C) because you have either started work or increased your hours or earnings (remunerative 16 hours or more).

The new job (or increased hours or earnings) must be expected to last at least 5 weeks

You must have been continuously in receipt of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or ESA(C) for 26 weeks immediately before the qualifying contributory benefit ceased.

Also, any period that your partner spends on a qualifying contributory benefit can count towards the 26 week period, provided that they were your partner throughout the 26 week period and they are still your partner.

HOW DO I CLAIM EXTENDED PAYMENT

You do not have to claim for an Extended Payment.

The Benefit Section will make the decision, however you may be asked to confirm that the job will last for at least 5 weeks and that you continue to be liable to pay rent or Council Tax.

CLAIMING HOUSING BENEFIT AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT AFTER THE EXTENDED PAYMENT HAS FINISHED

When your extended payment has finished, you may be entitled to claim again for Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Support if you think your income is still low.

You will have been sent a change in circumstance form to complete and return when your claim for Income Support, JSA or ESA ended. We would request that this form is returned prior to the end of your Extended Payment to enable your claim to be paid continuously. Any new benefit will be based on your new circumstances.

If you should decide that you do not wish to claim after the Extended Payment period, please advise the benefit section of this decision.

Contacting Us

If you would like more information or advice you can:

Email – housing.benefit@iow.gov.uk

Or alternatively, please visit our website www.iow.gov.uk/housingbenefitonline