Earn more. Keep more.

If you start work or want to earn more, you can still get Housing Benefit towards your rent. **There is no rules on the number of hours you can work**

From 5 October 2026, you may be able to keep more of your wages if you live in supported or temporary accommodation. Your council may count less of your pay when working out your Housing Benefit. This means you could still get help with your rent while working or earning more.



1 Thinking about work?

What this means

You may be worried about benefits, rent or the old 16-hour rule. These changes are designed to help you keep more of your earnings.

What to do

- ✓ **Speak to your support worker or work coach.**
- ✓ **Use Benefit calculator.**
- ✓ **Check your options before deciding.**



2 Start work or earn more

What this means

Your pay may go up. Universal Credit could go down or stop. This does not mean rent support stops.

What to do

- ✓ **Keep your all payslips.**
- ✓ **Tell the council about your pay.**
- ✓ **Use your Journal to report any changes to Universal Credit**



3 Universal Credit changes

What this means

Universal Credit is based on earnings.
If Universal Credit changes, you may still get help with rent. There are no rules on how many hours you can work.

What to do

- ✓ **Read your messages from Universal Credit.**
- ✓ **Keep letters and payslips.**
- ✓ **Ask for help if unsure.**



4 Tell your council

What this means

Your council needs information to work out your Housing Benefit.
Reporting rules are not changing.

What to do

- ✓ **Report work and earnings changes.**
- ✓ **Send payslips when asked.**
- ✓ **Reply to letters and messages.**

Earn more. Keep more.

If you start work or want to earn more, you can still get Housing Benefit towards your rent. **There is no rules on the number of hours you can work**

Keep all your payslips and tell the council about any changes to your job or pay. If you need advice or support, speak to your support worker or work coach.



5 Council checks rent support

What this means

The council will work out how much Housing Benefit support you can get with rent. The amount depends on your circumstances.

What to do

- ✓ **Read your decision letter.**
- ✓ **Check what rent you need to pay.**
- ✓ **Ask if something looks wrong.**



6 Your earnings may change

What this means

Your pay can go up or down. This can happen if hours change or a job ends.

What to do

- ✓ **Keep all your payslips.**
- ✓ **Tell the council if pay changes.**
- ✓ **Get advice if work ends.**



7 Need help?

What this means

You do not have to work this out on your own. There are people who can help.

What to do

- ✓ **Speak to your support worker or work coach.**
- ✓ **Ask your housing provider or council.**