



Support for Energy Bills –
The Council Tax Rebate and
Discretionary Fund 2022-23 Policy

March 2022

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1.0 Purpose of the Policy

The government has announced a package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate to help households with rising energy bills, worth £9.1 billion in 2022-23. This includes:

- A £200 discount on their energy bill this autumn for domestic electricity customers in Great Britain. This will be paid back automatically over the next 5 years.
- A £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in council tax bands A to D, known as the Council Tax Rebate.
- £144 million of discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate, known as the Discretionary Fund.

1.1 This policy sets out the eligibility criteria for the discretionary funding to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate as they occupy properties in council tax bands E to H and are on income related benefits or those where the energy bills payers are not liable for council tax.

2.0 Who is eligible for the discretionary funding?

2.1 Households who are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate as they occupy properties in council tax bands E to H and are on income related benefits such as Council Tax Support.

2.2 Households where the energy bill payers are not liable for council tax.

2.3 Households in bands E to H who receive a single occupancy discount.

3.0 How much funding will be available?

3.1 Funding of £150 per household will be available for those households meeting the eligibility criteria.

4.0 How the payment will be made

4.1 A one-off payment will be made to the liable council tax payer (or a person who would otherwise be liable where the property is exempt). Only one £150 payment will be made per household, regardless of the number of occupants or liable council taxpayers.

4.2 Payments will be made direct to the liable council tax payer using the live direct debit information held of an eligible household.

4.3 Where the council does not hold live direct debit instructions for an eligible household, efforts will be made to contact the household as early as possible to make them aware of the scheme and invite them to make a claim.

4.4 Should an eligible household not have a live direct debit instruction set up, the council will then look to make a credit of £150 against the households council tax liability.

- 4.5 Where an eligible household does not have a live direct debit or a council tax liability to credit, the council will make the £150 payment following an application process.

5.0 Impact of the payment

- 5.1 All payments made under the Council Tax Rebate or Discretionary Fund are to be treated as local welfare provision and therefore will not be taken into account in the calculation of income related benefits. For Universal Credit, the Department of Work and Pensions will legislate to ensure payments are disregarded.
- 5.2 All payments made under the Council Tax Rebate or Discretionary Fund are non-taxable. Recipients do not need to inform HMRC of the amounts received and those who are self-employed do not need to report the amounts on their Self Assessment tax returns. As these payments are non-taxable they do not impact tax credits. Tax credits claimants do not need to report these payments as income to HMRC.

6.0 Application Process

- 6.1 To apply for this discretionary grant funding you must first meet the criteria set out in section 2. If you do not fit these criteria then your application will be rejected.
- 6.2 Applications can be submitted online via the following web address www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/CTrebate
- 6.3 All applications will be subject to pre-payment checks.

7 Fraud

- 7.1 The Council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and any claimant caught falsifying their records to gain grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

8 Review

- 8.1 This policy was produced in March 2022 and will be updated should further guidance/updates be provided from Central Government.