



YOU WILL SOON BE RECEIVING YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL FOR 2018 - 2019

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AS IT COULD SAVE YOU MONEY!



Council Tax 2018 - 2019

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

If anyone in your household is substantially and permanently disabled and your home has been adapted to help them then you MAY be entitled to a reduced Council Tax Bill. If you are already receiving this reduction you need not re-apply.

DISCOUNT/EXEMPTIONS

Properties classed as second homes no longer qualify for a discount. Properties remaining unoccupied and unfurnished after the initial 6 month exemption no longer qualify for a discount. Properties remaining unoccupied and unfurnished in excess of 2 years are liable for a full charge plus an additional 50% premium.

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

Council Tax Support ensures that people in receipt of Jobs Seekers Allowance (or Income Support) and other people on low incomes will have their bill reduced. As a pensioner you may be entitled to a reduction in your Council Tax Bill. To qualify, you must claim.

Visit www.barrowbc.gov.uk/residents/council-tax/benefits-calculator to see if you will qualify for this support using the online calculator.

DIRECT DEBIT takes the worry out of payments and saves both time and money.

If you are having trouble paying your Council Tax Bill you may be entitled to Council Tax Support.

Contact us on **01229 404242** without delay.

DISCOUNTS

If there are less than 2 people living in your home you may be entitled to a discount. The categories of people shown below are NOT counted as residents and should NOT be counted when determining how many people live in your home, but you should contact the council for clarification on 01229 404242.

- Persons under 18 years of age
- Patients resident in hospital (ie long term patients)
- Full time students, student nurses, some apprentices and youth training trainees
- People who are being looked after in care homes
- People who are severely mentally impaired
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at or have just left school
- Care workers working for low pay, usually for charities
- People who are caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- Members of visiting forces
- Members of religious communities (Monks and Nuns)
- People in prison (some exceptions)

OTHER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

- Unoccupied and unfurnished properties discounted at 100% for up to six months
- Properties requiring or undergoing structural alteration or major repair discounted at 100% provided the total period does not exceed 12 months
- Annexes occupied by family members or utilised as part of the main home discounted at 50%

If you think you may be entitled to a discount, contact us now.

There is no need to re-apply if you are already receiving a correct discount.

For more detailed information please consult our website at www.barrowbc.gov.uk or speak to one of our customer advisors.

EXEMPT DWELLINGS

Some dwellings are completely exempt from Council Tax. These include properties occupied ONLY by students and/or their non-British spouses and vacant properties which:

- Are owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- Are left empty by someone who has gone to prison
- Are left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care
- Are left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care
- Are left empty by students
- Are waiting for probate or letters of administration (for up to six months after)
- Have been repossessed
- Are the responsibility of a Bankrupt's trustee
- Are empty because their occupation is forbidden by law
- Are awaiting occupation by a Minister of Religion
- Are occupied by only under 18 year olds
- Are unoccupied annexes ('Granny flats') or occupied in certain circumstances
- Are unoccupied caravan pitches
- Are occupied only by severely mentally impaired people

Please note that all change of circumstances affecting your household's entitlement to discount, exemption or Council Tax support must by law be notified to the Council within 21 days.

Contact us on 01229 404242

LIBERATA

Council Tax and Council Tax Support

Liberata and Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council have been working in partnership since 1994, providing important services to local people. Liberata administers Housing Benefit and Council Tax support claims and also collects Council Tax and Business Rates.

If you need help or advice about Council Tax, Council Tax Support, Housing Benefit or Business Rates our Customer Service Team is located at the Cornwallis Street entrance of Barrow Town Hall.

We are open from:

09.00 TO 16.00 - Monday - Friday

A visiting service is available for certain

customers please contact

Customer Services on 404242

for further information

Email enquiries should be made to:

Benefit/Council Tax Support queries

benefits@barrowbc.gov.uk

Council Tax Payment queries

counciltax@barrowbc.gov.uk

Business Rates queries

nndr@barrowbc.gov.uk

Telephone enquiries can be made on: 01229 404242

Telephone lines are open: 08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Thursday and 08.30 to 16.30 Friday

Benefits Take-Up

Barrow Borough Council is committed to increasing Benefit Take-Up and is actively encouraging new claimants to apply for Council Tax Support, Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payments. Increasing payment of these benefits to all who are entitled, is an excellent way to make a positive contribution to the Community we serve, and we are dedicated to doing so.

Contact 01229 404242 to speak to someone who could help you claim.

Alternatively you can

write to us at:

Liberata

Town Hall, Duke Street,

Barrow-in-Furness

LA14 2LD