For office use only	Date issued	Date received stamp
Reference		

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support application form

If you want to claim help with paying your rent or Council Tax, please fill in this form and return it within one month.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITHOUT DELAY

If you cannot provide proof, you can send it later.

Before you complete this claim:

You should be aware that the Council will check the information you provide against a range of other government databases including the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs, as well as other Councils and credit reference agencies. These checks will be carried out by computer when we first assess your claim and regularly during the life of the claim. It is therefore in your interest to answer all necessary questions on this form fully and declare all income, bank accounts and people that live in your property, and notify the council as soon as your circumstances change.

Questions about your claim

1 Mr		r title Mrs	Ms	Miss	7		Address and postcode of the property you are claiming benefit for
2	First	t name(s)					
	Surr	name					
					8	İ	Date you moved in
3	Date	e of birth					
					9		Date you would like your claim to start
4	Nati	onal Insuran	ce number				
							If you would like us to consider backdating your claim please tell us why in Section P.
5 Ple		tact details provide an e	mail addre:	SS	_	M -	
					P	110	ase tell us why you are making this claim
	If you	u do not have nere	an email ad	dress please			
	Tele	phone numb	er				
	Mob	ile number					

Questions about you (Please tick any box that	
1 Do you rent from the council?	
2 Do you rent from a private landlord?	
3 Do you own your home or have a mortg	age?
4 Do you rent from a housing association?	?
5 Other (please give details)	
6 Are you liable for Council Tax?	Yes No
C Questions about yo	
1 What was your previous address?	3 Please give the dates you lived there. From / / to / /
	Did you claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support at your old address?
2 At this address were you the (please tick	k): Yes No
Tenant? Owner?	
Lodger? Other? Please	e Explain:
Questions about yo	our partner
 We use partner to mean: a person you are married to or a pers a civil partner or a person you live wi 	son you live with as if you are married to them; or ith as if you are civil partners.
1 Do you have a partner? Yes No	5 National Insurance number
2 Your partner's title Mr Mrs Ms Miss	6 What date did your partner move in?
3 Partner's full name	7 What was your partner's previous address?
4 Date of birth	

E

Questions about children who live with you

Do you have any children who live with you?

If 'Yes' please give details below.

Full name of child	Relationship to you or your partner	Date of birth	Boy or girl?	Do you get child benefit?	If no, who gets child benefit for them?	Do they receive disability living allowance?
Example: John Smith	Son	04/01/01	Boy	Yes	No	No

F

Questions about other people in your home

Does anybody live with you and your partner? For example grown up son or daughter, friend or lodger? If 'Yes', please give details below.

Full name	Date of birth	National Insurance	Male or Female?		Please provide proof of their income. See page 18 for details of what is needed	in?
Example: Ian Smith	01/09/69	AB123456C	Male	Son		01/01/02

If anyone listed above (who is not a lodger) is working, we must see their last five weekly or last two monthly wage slips. If you do not provide this, it may lead to us paying you less benefit.

If any of these people are married to each other or living together as if they are married, or civil partners or living as if they are civil partners, please give details in section P.

- 2 Do any of the above people pay you rent?
- 3 If 'Yes', give their names and the amount they each pay you

G

Application form for Council Tax Single Person Discount

Please complete	this section	if you are	the only	resident age	d 18 or ove	er in
your household.						

yc	our nousenoia.						
1	1 Date property became occupied by you as the only person over 18 /						
2	2 Have you become the only occupier as someone has moved out?						
	If 'Yes', please give details:						
F	ull name(s) of person(s) leaving	Forward	ding ad	dress(es)			
	you do not provide a forwarding ad scount.	dress we	may	not be abl	e to g	rant a	
3	Are you applying for a discount due to oth	er changes	in circ	umstance?			
	If 'Yes', please give reasons below.						
to dis re-	ease note that the Local Authority is under a duty a property before calculating the charge due. The scount awarded at least once a year. This means application form that requires you to confirm the ason to believe at any time that there is no longe	e Local Auth that we ma number of	nority ca y either residents	rries out a rol visit your prop s living at you	ling revie perty or a r propert	ew of any send you a ty. If we hav	
De	eclaration						
TH	HIS MUST BE COMPLETED.						
L	declare that I am the only resident* undertake to notify the Council if th understand there are financial pena	is chang	es at	any time.		mes.	
*R	esident refers to all persons aged 18 years	and over.					
Si	gned	Date					
			/	1			

н

Do any of the following apply to you or your partner? (Please write Yes or No in the appropriate boxes.)

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
1 Have you come to live in the UK in the last two years?		
2 Does your passport say that you do not have recourse to public funds?		
3 What is your nationality?		
4 When did you move to the UK?	1 1	1 1
5 Are you a full time student?		
6 If 'Yes', what course and qualification are you studying?		
7 Are you an apprentice?		
8 Are you registered blind?		
9 Have you been unable to work for more than 52 weeks because of illness or disability?		
10 Does anyone get Carers Allowance for looking after you?		
11 Do you have a car provided by Motability or an invalid vehicle?		
12 Are you or your partner in hospital at the moment?		
13 If 'Yes', what date did you go in?	1 1	1 1
14 Have you been in hospital during the last 52 weeks?		
15 If 'Yes', please give the dates.	From / /	From / /
	To / /	To / /
16 Are you or your partner in legal custody?		

Questions about the money you have coming in

(Please write Yes or No in the appropriate boxes.)

Do you or your partner get any of the following?

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance		
Attendance Allowance		
If 'Yes', how much each week?	£	£
Disability Living Allowance care component/ Personal Independence Payment daily living component		
If 'Yes', how much each week?	£	£
Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment - mobility component		
If 'Yes', how much each week?	£	£
Working Tax Credit?		
If 'Yes', how much each week?	£	£
Child Tax Credit		
If 'Yes', how much each week?	£	£

9 Please list all your and your partner's income below.

You need to include wages, state or work pensions, Pension Credits, contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance, Child Benefit, maintenance or child support, rental income, tips or charitable or voluntary payments or any other income you receive on a regular basis.

If you and your partner have no income, write 'none' and explain why in section P.

If you do not declare all your income, you may have to pay back some or all of the benefit later. We may also prosecute you.

Type of income you receive	Received by who	Amount received	How often?
Example: work pension	partner	£56.86	monthly

Questions about the money you have coming in (continued)

	YOU	YOUR PARTNER
10 Is there any income or benefit that you have claimed but are not getting yet? E.g. Tax Credits		
11 If 'Yes', please state what and when you expect to receive it.		
12 Do you do any paid work?		

Questions if you are working

		YOU		YOU	YOUR PARTNE		
1	What is your job title?						
2	When did you start this job?		/	/		/	/
3	How many hours do you work on average each week?						
4	If you work term time only please state how many weeks you work?						
5	How often do you get paid?						
6	How are you paid, for example, cash, cheque or BACS?						
7	When is your next pay rise?		/	/		/	/
8	If this is a temporary job, when is it due to end?						
9	What is the name and address of your employer?						
10	Do you pay into a pension plan or occupational pension scheme?						
11	Do you have any other jobs?						
If	'Yes' please give full details in section	D					

If 'Yes' please give full details in section P.

12 Are you receiving statutory sick pay, or statutory maternity pay at the moment?



Questions if you or your partner are self-employed (If you are not self-employed, go to section L.)

		YOU	J	YOUR P	ARTNE	R
1	What is the name of your business?					
2	What is the business address?					
3	How many hours do you work on average each week?					
4	What type of work do you do?					
5	What date did you start?	1	1	1	1	
6	Who else is involved in the business?					
7	Do you pay into a pension plan?					

Note: If you are self-employed, you must give us proof of your income by providing detailed audited accounts for the last year, if available. If audited accounts are not available, return this form straight away and ask for a Self-Employed Earnings form. If you do not have any income, please tell us in Section P what you are living on. Please note we do not accept self assessment tax returns as proof.

Questions about childcare

ı	Questions about chin	lucai e
1	Do you, or your partner, pay childcare costs to a registered childminder or pay	4 How much do you pay, net of vouchers?
	for an after-school club or play scheme?	£
	Yes No	How often?
2	If 'Yes', please give the name and address of the childminder or play scheme	
	or club together with their OFSTED or Social Services registration number	5 Names of children who attend.
3	Date child care started?	
	1	Please provide receipts for payments made

M

Questions about accounts and investments

If you get Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Guarantee Credit go to section O.

1	Do you	or your	partner	have any	bank,	building
	society	or post	office a	ccounts?		

If 'Yes', please give details below.

Type of account or savings	Account number	Amount	Held by	
Example: Natwest current account	12345678	0.01	Partner	

2 Do you or your partner have any stocks or shares?

If 'Yes', please give details below.

Name of company	Number of shares	Held by
Example: BT	225	me

3 Do you or your partner have any National Savings Certificates or Premium Bonds?

If 'Yes', please give details below.

Name	Issue type	Amount invested	Date of issue	Held by
Example: Premium	12345678	£100	19 July 1978	Partner

4	Do you	have any	other form	of capital?
---	--------	----------	------------	-------------

If 'Yes', please give details and amounts in section P.

5 Do you have any savings that are held in cash?

If 'Yes', please give details and amounts in section P.

6 Does anyone owe you any money?

If 'Yes', please give details and amounts in section P.

N

Questions about property and land

1 Do you, your partner or your children own any property (other than the home you live in), land or holiday homes, in the UK or abroad? This includes properties and land on which there is a mortgage or loan, held in trust or jointly held with another person.

If 'Yes', please give the address of each property in section P.

0

Questions for people who pay rent

1	What date did your tenancy start?		/	1
2	What date did you move in?		/	1
3	Do you have a tenancy agreement?			
4	If you have a joint tenancy, list the names of the other tenants			
5	What is the name and address of your landlord or housing association?			
	Tarratora of Floading addoctation:			
		Email	l	
6	Do they own the property?	Yes		No
7	If not, please say who owns the property and give their address			
	property and give their address			
8	Have you or your partner ever owned the property you are renting?			
9	Are you, your partner or your children related to the owner of the property,			
	or their partner?			
10	If 'Yes', please say how you are related.			

If you have a tenancy agreement, please send it in as proof of rent. If you do not have a tenancy agreement or cannot find it, please ask your landlord to write a letter.

Questions about your rent

11	How much is the full rent?		£			
12		How often is the rent charged, for example, every week, every four				
	weeks of every in	Onur				
13	Are you behind with your rent?			How m	uch do you owe?	
14	Do you have any non-collection weeks?			If 'Yes', how many?		
15	What was the date rent increase?	e of the last	1	1		
16	Does your rent ind	clude money for the	e following. Plea	ase wri	te 'Yes' or 'No' i	n each box.
	Garage		Do you have a to rent the gara			
	Water rates		Cleaning of sh	ared are	eas	
	Council Tax		Personal care	or supp	ort	
	Heating		Heating or ligh	iting or s	shared areas	
	Hot water		Cleaning and I	aundry		
	Lighting		Breakfast			
	Fuel for cooking		Lunch			
			Evening meal			
17	Any other services	s included?				
	If 'Yes', please sa	y which.				

If you are aged 25 to 35, your local housing allowance may be restricted unless you have spent at least 3 months in a hostel for homeless people. If this does apply to you please tick here.

If you are under 22 years old, are you, or have you been, under a care order or looked after under the Childrens Act? If yes, you may be entitled to more housing benefit so you must provide proof of your care order or the fact that you were looked after under the Childrens Act (or both).

Please tick here if this applies to you

0

Questions about your home

18 What type of accommodation do you rent? Please tick one of the following.

Bedsit	Semi detached	Caravan	
Room	Detached	Hotel	
Flat	Bungalow	Hostel	
House	Maisonette	Residential Care Home	
Terraced	Other (please give details)		

19 If you rent a room, please tick a box to show where in the property it is.

	Front	Centre		Back				
Fro	ont left	Front right		Back left		В	ack right	
20	On which floor is your flat or room?							
21	What is your room or flat number?							
22	How many floors are there in the property?							
23	Does the acc	commodation hav	re					
24	Do you have	a car space?						
25	Is the accom	modation rented:						
	Fully furnishe	ed?		Partly furn	nished?			
	With hardly a	nny furniture?		Unfurnish	ed?			
26	Who is responsible for decoration inside, for example, landlord, tenant or do not know?							

Living rooms Bedrooms Bedsitting rooms		Number of roo	Number of rooms you share with other people			
Bedsitting rooms						
Vitabana						
Kitchens						
Bathroom with toilet						
Bathrooom without toilet						
Separate toilets						
Dining rooms						
Other rooms (please specify)						
Total number						
	a in which to cook in t	the room?	Yes	No		
29 Do you have a bedrowho does not live wi	th you permanently?	carei	Yes	No		
[Care] at the middle	er are not receiving A or higher rate or Pers provide evidence fron carer.	sonal Indepen	dence Payr	ment-daily liv	/ing	
	rate bedroom for a di bedroom with anothe ter from a doctor or a	er child?	Yes supporting	No this need.		
P Other	r informatio	n				
vou want to give any m	nore information that If there is not enough					_
etails in the box below.						

C

Paying Housing Benefit

If you are a tenant of a registered provider (housing association) then you can still have your Housing Benefit paid directly to your landlord. To do so tick this box

If you are a tenant of a private landlord we will usually pay housing benefit directly into your bank account. If you want us to pay your landlord please read the safeguard policy below.

Please note that we only make payments by BACS.

Please provide details of your Bank or Building Society account.

Please note that there are some accounts that we are unable to make payments into, such as Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) and Post Office® Card Accounts.

If you are unsure whether you have a suitable bank account or would like help to open an account, please contact us or your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

30	Name and full address of Bank of	r Bu	ilding	g Soc	ciety				
31	Names on the account								
32	Branch sort code			_		_			
33	Account number								
34	Roll number (Building Society accounts)								

Safeguard Policy

We have a Safeguard Policy to protect vulnerable tenants. Each case is considered individually. The landlord may receive direct payments, if:

- The tenant is in rent arrears of eight weeks or more.
- The tenant is having difficulty in managing their money.
- It is unlikely that the tenant will pay their rent.

Examples of where the safeguard policy may apply

The tenant:

- has a medical condition which affects them dealing with their finances
- has a learning disability
- has language difficulties
- is dealing with an addiction
- has severe debt problems

Alerting the Council

The tenant, person representing them, or the landlord may ask the Council to pay the Housing Benefit directly to the landlord. Please ask us for an application form.

R

Sharing Information with your Landlord or Agent

Under the Data Protection Act, we need your permission to be able to share information with your landlord or agent. This may help us process your claim and prevent you from missing rent payments.

If you give us permission, we will be able to tell your landlord or their agent if you have made a claim, if your claim has been processed or if we need more information.

We may have to ask your landlord or their agent for information, such as the date your tenancy started, before we can process your claim. We may ask for this information even if you have not given permission, but we will not discuss anything else with your landlord or their agent. To give us permission to discuss your claim with your landlord or their agent, please sign below.

I give you permission to share my information with my landlord or their agent.

Your name		
Your address		
Signature		
Date		
/ /		

S

Declaration

Please read this declaration carefully.

- I declare that the information I have given is correct.
- I understand that if I give information that is false, I may be prosecuted.
- I understand that if I supply or allow to be supplied any documents that I know to be false, I may be prosecuted.
- I authorise you to make any necessary enquiries to check the information on this form. This includes contacting my bank, building society, employer, pension provider, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, D.W.P and other local authorities.
- I authorise you to check the information I have given with other sections within the council and the Valuation Office Agency.
- I understand that information disclosed on this form my be supplied to Experian, a Credit Reference Agency, and any investigations could possibly include checks on undeclared cohabiters.
- I live at the address given on the form, and have no income other than that I have declared.
- I am not claiming Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support elsewhere.
- I must tell the Benefit Section quickly about any changes.

Examples of changes include if:

- Your rent changes;
- Tax Credit changes;
- Pension Credit changes;
- You or your partner start working or change employer;
- You or your partner have a baby;
- You or your partner go into hospital;
- Anyone leaves or joins the household;
- The income of anyone in your household goes up or down;

- A child leaves school or Child Benefit stops;
- You or your partner's investments or savings go up or down; or
- You or your partner come off Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit.

Remember if you change address, you must fill in a new form.

I understand that if I knowingly continue to get Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support that I am not entitled to I may be prosecuted.

We will pass the information you give on this form to our Anti-Fraud Team as part of our commitment to reduce crime. We use the information to check against other local and national government services, to detect and prevent crime only. This includes the D.W.P, Housing Benefits Matching Service and the Audit Commission's National Anti-Fraud Initiative.

We may use this information to tell you about changes to the service.

We may also share information with other departments within the Council and partner organisations that are involved in the planning and delivery of local services.

The information in this form is personal and will be held by the authority. As a result, it is covered by the Data Protection Act 1984, amended by the Data Protection Act 1998.

Data Protection declaration

There are now government rules that affect people who are from a country other than the United Kingdom and are claiming Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support.

Because of these changes, we have now registered the Housing Benefit and Council Tax database for access by the Home Office.

Т

Signatures

I have read and understand the declaration on page 16.						
Your signature				Date		
Your partner's signature				Date		
rear parties e eignature						
The section below mus This includes an agent				ne has filled in the claim form for you. r friend.		
I have filled in this form of	on behalf of	F				
As they cannot fill in the form because						
I am (block capitals)						
Relationship to person c	laiming					
I have read each question and recorded the answers given. As far as I know they are true and complete.						
Your signature				Date		

Remember, unless you are the appointee or have Power of Attorney, the person claiming must also sign the form.

Fraud costs you many thousands of pounds each year. If you believe you know of anyone taking money from us to which they are not entitled, please phone

0800 854 440

This is a free 24-hour fraud hotline. We will treat all calls in the strictest confidence.

U

Claim checklist - what to do next

- 1 Your fully completed and signed claim form. You must answer every question.
- 2 Proof of identity for you and your partner if you have a partner. Please note that two separate items for each of you are required.
- 3 Proof of national Insurance number for you and your partner if you have a partner.
- 4 Proof of income for you and your partner if you have a partner.
- 5 Proof of all income for you and anyone else who lives with you (including your children or a grown up son or daughter or other relative living with you).
- 6 Proof of any savings, investments, stocks, shares, property or any other capital held by you, your partner or your children including any bank or building society current accounts.
- 7 Proof of your rent.

Remember every document must be an original. We cannot accept photocopies. Send us your claim form as soon as possible, but within one calendar month, even if you do not have all the proof now.

Proof of identity can be any of the following:

- Birth certificate, marriage certificate or divorce, separation or annulment papers (in your current name).
- Passport (current and valid) or National Identity Card.
- Medical Card.
- Gas, electricity, phone or water rates bill, but not a mobile phone bill, in your name at your current address.
- Driving licence (photocard or paper) full or provisional.
- Home Office standard acknowledgement letter (SAL1 or 2).

Proof of your National Insurance number (NINo) can be one of these:

- P45 or P60.
- Letter from the Inland Revenue about tax.
- Letter that the Job Centre or Pension Service has sent to you (not hand-written).
- NINo card (not hand-written).

Proof of Income and capital can be any of the following:

- Pay slips (the last five weeks or the last two months pay slips – no gaps) or
- Certificate of earnings completed in full and stamped by your employer.
- Trading accounts for the last financial year if you are self-employed. If you have been trading for less than a year please ask for a self employment form.
- Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance decision letter.
- Bank or Building Society or Post Office account pass books or statements (the last two statements for each account).

Proof of rent can be any of the following:

- Signed tenancy agreement
- Rent book
- Letter from landlord or agent

The evidence for proof of rent must provide the following information:

- The full name and business or home address of the owner of the property.
- The full name and business address of any agent.
- The date the agreement started.
- The amount of rent payable.
- The payment period or frequency for example, weekly, monthly, four weekly.

These are examples, not a full list.

Please provide proof of ALL your household's income and capital.

V

Equality and Diversity

The council is committed to ensuring that all its services are delivered fairly. Equality monitoring provides important information to help us identify trends and make improvements in all areas of our activities. We are therefore asking you the following questions about yourself so that we can make sure that services are delivered equally to everyone. The information you provide will be kept confidential, but may be used by the council to check the fairness of any other services you receive. You do not have to answer these questions, and it will make no difference at all to the way the council treats you whether you answer them or not.

Please choose one section from 1 to 5, then tick the box that best describes your cultural background.

1 Ethnicity		
White	Mixed	Black or black British
British	White & black Caribbean	Black Caribbean
Irish	White & black African	Black African
Other white background	White & Asian	Other black background
	Other mixed background	
Asian or Asian British	Other ethnic groups	Any other ethnic
Indian	Chinese	group not listed
Pakistani	Afghan	please specify below
Bangladeshi	Kurdish	
Other Asian background	Roma	
2 Disability	3 Gender	5 Religion/Faith/Belief
Do you consider yourself	Male	Christian
to have a disability?	Female	Buddhist
Yes No		Hindu
If yes, please help us by	4 Covered Orientation	Jewish
identifying your disability:	4 Sexual Orientation	Muslim
Mobility impairment	Heterosexual	Sikh
Blind or partially sighted	Gay Man	None
Learning difficulties	Gay Woman	Prefer not to say
Mental health needs	Bisexual	Any other religion
Profoundly deaf	Prefer not to say	(please specify)
Hard of hearing		
Living with HIV/AIDS		

Tunbridge Wells residents should return their forms in the following ways:



By Post:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Revenues and Benefits Section Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1RS

By Hand:

Tunbridge Wells Gateway 8 Grosvenor Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 2AB

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (6.30pm on Thursday) 9am to 1.30pm Saturday

Weald Information Centre Stone Street Cranbrook Kent

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

For further advice and information please telephone:

01892 526121

8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Minicom: 01892 545449

Fax: **01892 554133**

e-mail: benefits@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Visit our website at

www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Maidstone residents should return their forms in the MAID TONE following ways:

By Post:

Maidstone Borough Council Revenues and Benefits Section Maidstone House Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ

By Hand:

Maidstone Gateway King Street Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ

8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm Saturday

For further advice and information please telephone:

01622 602557

8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday

e-mail: benefits@maidstone.gov.uk

Visit our website at www.maidstone.gov.uk