#### Housing Benefit



# Paying your landlord

If you decide to fill it in, return the form to:

Newham Benefits Service PO Box 23504 London E15 4UU

This form is about how we pay your Housing Benefit.

We always pay council tenants' benefit into their rent accounts. We normally pay other tenants' benefit into their bank accounts, but we can sometimes pay their landlords.

You should not fill in this form if you are a council tenant, but if you are another kind of tenant and you think we should be paying your landlord, use this form to tell us about it.

Your details	
Your last name	
Other names	
Title	
Date of birth	
National insurance number	
Daytime phone number	
Your address	
Postcode	
Your Housing Benefit reference, if you have one	

#### **Choosing to pay your** landlord

If the answer to any of the questions below is Yes, we will normally pay your landlord if you

ask us to.	,	
ls your landlord a registered housing	No	
association?	Yes	
ls your landlord a charity or voluntary group that provides		_
you with care,	No	
support or supervision?	Yes	
Do you live in a hostel?	No	
A hostel is somewhere which:	Yes	
<ul> <li>is not self-contained;</li> <li>provides board or somewhere to prepare food;</li> <li>is run by a voluntary or charitable body that receives Government or local authority funds.</li> <li>It includes a bail or probation hostel.</li> </ul>		
Did your tenancy begin before January	No	
1989?	Yes	
Do you live in a houseboat, caravan or	No	
mobile home?	Yes	
If you answered <b>Yes</b> to any of the above questions, go on to "Do you want us to pay your landlord?". If all your answers were <b>No</b> , go on to page 3 - "Paying your landlord if you are in arrears".		

## Do you want us to nav

your landlord?	July
Do you want us to pay your landlord?	
If you want us to pay your landlord, sign this statemen	
Please pay my Housing Benefit to my landlord. I understand that:  • I must always tell you about any changes in my circumstances;  • If I do not tell you about any changes of circumstances I will have to pay back any overpayment.  • I may be prosecuted if I do not tell you about any changes.	
Signature	
Date	
Please give your landlord's details in the space below. We need to contact them to obtain:  •their consent to receive your Housing Benefit; and •their bank details.	
Your landlord's name and	d address
Postcode	
Your landlord's phone number(s)	

#### Paying your landlord if you are in arrears

We have to pay your landlord if we are told that:

 the Department of Work and Pensions is deducting money from your benefit to pay rent arrears to your landlord.

We also have to pay your landlord if we are satisfied that:

 you are in arrears equal to 8 or more weeks rent. But this does not apply if it would be in your overriding interest not to pay your landlord, for example if you are withholding the rent to get repairs done.

We have discretion to pay your landlord if we think it is improbable that you will pay your rent.

It is not enough to say that you do not intend paying your rent. There must be evidence that:

- you have not been paying the rent; or
- you have a history of not paying the rent or other bills; and that you may not pay your rent in future; or
- something is likely to happen that means you may not pay your rent in future.

#### Are you in arrears?

If you think we should pay your landlord because you are in arrears or because it is improbable you will pay the rent, give your reasons here.		

Please include with this form any evidence you have to support your application.

We might have to interview you or ask you for more information before we decide whether to pay your landlord

Date	
Signature	

### Difficulty managing your finances

People are likely to have difficulty managing their finances because of things like:

- health problems;
- · bereavement:
- · a sudden drop in income;
- · not being used to budgeting;
- their income is too low to cover their bills;.
- severe debt problems;
- · County Court judgments;
- undischarged bankruptcy;
- being unable to open a bank account.

Problems may often result from a mixture of things like low income, debts and proor health.

If there's not room in the box to explain why you are likely to have difficulty managing your financial affairs, please attach an extra sheet of paper.

We will need evidence to confirm your circumstances.

# Are you likely to have difficulty managing your finances?

If you think we should pay your landlord because you will have difficulty managing your financial affairs, please give your reasons below.		

Please include with this form any evidence you have to support your application.

We might have to interview you before we decide whether to pay your landlord.

Signature	
Date	