

Benefits
are
changing

Welfare Reform Factsheet

Extra help with moving home

If you live in a Council or Housing Association home and have one or more 'spare' bedrooms, your Housing Benefit may have been reduced. Children are expected to share a bedroom.

This factsheet gives information about the extra help available if you decide to move home.

The Priority Downsizing Waiting List

If you are a Council or Housing Association tenant, and you want to move to a smaller property, you can apply to join the priority downsizing waiting list.

If you are on the priority downsizing waiting list and you cannot afford to pay the shortfall in your rent yourself, you may be able to get Discretionary Housing Payments. These payments will help with the reduction in your Housing Benefit while you wait to move home.

You may also be able to get help with your moving costs and setting up your new home when you move. See overleaf for details on this.

For more information on the Priority Downsizing Waiting List, tenants should contact Housing Enquiries on (029) 2053 7111. Housing Association tenants can also contact their landlord.

Swapping / exchanging your home with another tenant

If you are a Council or Housing Association tenant you can swap homes with another Council or Housing Association tenant. The other home does not need to be in Cardiff.

If you are affected by the new size restriction rules from April 2013 you may also be able to get help with your moving costs and setting up your new home. See the next page for details.

You can find tenants looking to exchange homes at www.homeswapper.co.uk.

Homes with disabled adaptations

If your home has adaptations to help with a disability, Cardiff Accessible Homes and the Disabled Facilities Grants section of the Council will work with you to :

- Help you find a property where adaptations are no longer needed; or
- Replace your adaptations at a new smaller home

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Are YOU ready?

www.cardiff.gov.uk/welfarereform



029 2087 2087

Help with removal costs

If you are a Council or Housing Association tenant affected by the Housing Benefit size restriction rules from April 2013, you may be entitled to £250 from the Discretionary Housing Payments fund to help with your removal costs. This money will be paid by the Housing Benefits section into your bank account.

To get this help you must be moving to a new Council or Housing Association home which is smaller than your current home. Your new home does not need to be in Cardiff.

You can apply for this help when you sign for your new tenancy.

Help with setting up your new home

If you are a **Council tenant** affected by the size restriction rules from April 2013, you may also be able to claim a Welfare Reform Disturbance Payment. This payment is £250 to help with the costs of setting up your new home. It will be paid by the Councils Social Lettings Unit into your bank account.

You can apply for this help when you sign for your new tenancy.

Some Housing Associations are also offering help. **Housing Association tenants** should contact their landlords for further information.

Help if you want to rent privately

If you get Housing Benefit, and want to move to a privately rented home, you may be able to get help with a bond or rent in advance. To get help, you must :

- be affected by Welfare Reform, or have a good reason for needing to move home
- have found a new home in Cardiff that you are ready to move into
- be able to afford the rent in your new home

For more information on this scheme you can visit the Housing Options Centre at Hansen Street (Off Tresillian Terrace), Cardiff, CF10 5WD, or call them on 029 2057 0750

Where can I get more information about moving home?

The Cardiff Housing Website aims to help people looking for a home by offering information about rented and affordable accommodation. Landlords can also advertise their properties, and get information about required accommodation standards, accreditation options and other issues.

You can visit the website at www.cardiffhousing.co.uk

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact us in one of the following ways

- **By Telephone** : 029 2053 7111
- **By email** : housingenquiries@cardiff.gov.uk
- **By visiting one of our offices around the city.** Please contact us for more details or visit www.cardiff.gov.uk/benefits

This leaflet gives general guidance only and should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law