BW1 - Assessment of capital

Contents

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About this chapter ........................................................................................................ BW1.00
  Working age claimants ............................................................................................ BW1.20
Whose capital should be included ........................................................................... BW1.30
  Treatment of capital owned by child/young person ............................................. BW1.32
  Polygamous marriages ......................................................................................... BW1.40
  Treating the claimant as having the capital and income of a non-dependant .... BW1.41
What is capital? ........................................................................................................ BW1.70
Ownership of capital ............................................................................................... BW1.100
  Beneficial and legal ownership of capital ............................................................ BW1.101
  Ownership disputed ............................................................................................. BW1.105
Trust Funds .............................................................................................................. BW1.130
  When there is a trust ........................................................................................ BW1.131
  Trustees .............................................................................................................. BW1.133
  The powers of trustees ..................................................................................... BW1.133
  Terms of a trust ............................................................................................... BW1.135
  Treatment of an interest in a trust .................................................................. BW1.136
    Absolute entitlement to capital ................................................................ BW1.136
    Contingent interest .................................................................................... BW1.139
    Reversionary interest ................................................................................. BW1.141
    Vested interest .......................................................................................... BW1.144
    Life interest or life rent ........................................................................... BW1.144
    Discretionary trusts .................................................................................. BW1.148
    Charitable trusts ........................................................................................ BW1.151
    Bare Trusts ................................................................................................ BW1.154
    Investments as part of a trust ................................................................ BW1.157
When to validate and value capital ..................................................................... BW1.170
Disregarded capital ............................................................................................... BW1.180
  Capital assets disregarded in full ................................................................ BW1.180
  Capital assets disregarded for 26 weeks .......................................................... BW1.200
  Capital assets disregarded for 52 weeks .......................................................... BW1.201
  Treatment of sports awards ........................................................................... BW1.202
  Treatment of personal injury payments ......................................................... BW1.205
    What counts as a personal injury payment? ............................................. BW1.205
    How to treat payments derived from personal injury awards ............ BW1.208
    Structured settlements ............................................................................. BW1.211
Contents

Ex-miners’ compensation ................................................................. BW1.212
Payment held under control of the Court of Protection ..................... BW1.213
Payment not held under control of the Court of Protection ............... BW1.215
Notional income and capital ............................................................. BW1.216
Payments made to a third party ......................................................... BW1.217

Official error .................................................................................. BW1.230
Self-employed business assets ......................................................... BW1.240
Treatment of vCJD Trust payments .................................................. BW1.244
  How payments are made ............................................................... BW1.246
  Can payments be disregarded? ....................................................... BW1.249
  Payments to vCJD victims or their partners ................................... BW1.250
  Payments to parents or persons acting in place of parents of
  vCJD victims ................................................................................ BW1.251
  Payments to a dependent child or young person ............................ BW1.252
  Derived payments - overall limit .................................................... BW1.253
  Capital derived from a vCJD Trust payment ................................... BW1.254
  Deprivation of capital ................................................................... BW1.255

Treatment of LBRCF payments ....................................................... BW1.270
  Indefinite disregard ..................................................................... BW1.280
  Two year disregard ..................................................................... BW1.290

Effect of capital on HB/CTB ............................................................. BW1.330
  Capital over £16,000 ................................................................... BW1.330
  Capital of £6,000 or less ............................................................... BW1.331
  Capital between £6,000 and £16,000 ............................................ BW1.350
  Tariff income ............................................................................. BW1.350
  Increased disregard for certain HB claimants in residential care .... BW1.352

Jointly owned capital ..................................................................... BW1.380
  Jointly owned property ................................................................ BW1.381
  Joint tenancy ............................................................................. BW1.381
  Tenants in common .................................................................... BW1.382

Capital assets held abroad ............................................................... BW1.400
Valuation of capital ....................................................................... BW1.430
  National Savings Certificates ....................................................... BW1.440
  Rounding up units of NSCs .......................................................... BW1.444
  Precise valuation required ........................................................... BW1.450
  Ulster Savings Certificates ............................................................. BW1.451
  Land, building or house property ................................................ BW1.470
  Valuing the property .................................................................. BW1.475
  Action before requesting a valuation ........................................... BW1.475
# Contents

Obtaining a valuation from the District Valuers Services - form LA2(rev) .......................................................... BW1.480

Multiple valuations for same property .......................................................... BW1.483
Action by the District Valuers Services ........................................................ BW1.484
Claimant disputes the valuation ..................................................................... BW1.490
Jointly owned property ................................................................................ BW1.491

Stocks and shares .......................................................................................... BW1.510
Unit trust holdings ......................................................................................... BW1.530

Particular forms of capital ............................................................................... BW1.550
Advance of earnings or loan from employer .................................................. BW1.550
Backdated pay awards .................................................................................. BW1.551
Bounty payments ............................................................................................ BW1.552
Capital paid by instalments ............................................................................ BW1.553
Claimant or partner’s capital paid by instalments ........................................ BW1.554
Child or young person’s capital ..................................................................... BW1.556

Charitable or voluntary payments ................................................................ BW1.557
Chose in action ............................................................................................... BW1.560
Court of Protection ........................................................................................ BW1.580
Fixed term investments .................................................................................. BW1.600
Friendly Societies – personal deposit accounts ............................................. BW1.620
Holiday pay ..................................................................................................... BW1.622
Income from a capital asset ........................................................................... BW1.624
Income treated as capital ............................................................................... BW1.630
Tax refunds ..................................................................................................... BW1.630
Interest in an unadministered estate ............................................................. BW1.640
Lump-sum compensation payments .............................................................. BW1.641
Matrimonial assets on breakdown of marriage ............................................. BW1.642
Payments under an annuity .......................................................................... BW1.660
Redundancy payments including severance pay ......................................... BW1.661

Notional capital ............................................................................................... BW1.680
Deprivation of capital .................................................................................... BW1.700
Identifying deprivation .................................................................................. BW1.702
Deciding if claimant formerly owned the capital ......................................... BW1.710
Burden of proof ............................................................................................... BW1.711
Reason for disposing of capital asset ........................................................... BW1.730
Knowledge of the capital limit ....................................................................... BW1.740
Contents

Diminishing notional capital........................................................................................................ BW1.760
Claimant still entitled to HB ........................................................................................................ BW1.765
Claimant still entitled to CTB ...................................................................................................... BW1.772
Claimant is not entitled to HB/CTB when notional capital is applied .................................. BW1.779
Claimant reapplies for HB and/or CTB ..................................................................................... BW1.785
Claimant reapplies 26 weeks or more after date of deprivation decision ................................ BW1.788
Claimant reapplies less than 26 weeks after date of deprivation decision ............................. BW1.795
  Change in claimants circumstances ....................................................................................... BW1.795
  No change in claimant’s circumstances .................................................................................. BW1.799
Claimant becomes entitled to HB and/or CTB ........................................................................ BW1.802
Claimant still not entitled to HB and/or CTB .......................................................................... BW1.803
IS/JSA/ESA claimants affected by deprivation ....................................................................... BW1.830
General issues on deprivation ................................................................................................. BW1.870
Disposing of capital to buy personal possessions .................................................................. BW1.890
Deprivation of jointly owned capital ........................................................................................ BW1.930
Payments to third parties .......................................................................................................... BW1.950
  Payment to a third party for a member of the family ............................................................. BW1.951
  Payment to member of the family for a third party ............................................................... BW1.953
Definitions used in this chapter ............................................................................................... Annex A
Tariff income assumed from capital ........................................................................................ Annex B
Table for valuing National Savings Certificates ....................................................................... Annex C
Form LA1(rev) .......................................................................................................................... Annex D
Form LA2(rev) .......................................................................................................................... Annex E
Valuation of government securities ........................................................................................ Annex F
Does not apply to working age claimants ................................................................................ Annex G
Does not apply to working age claimants ................................................................................ Annex H
**BW1 Assessment of capital**

**About this chapter**

W1.00 This chapter gives guidance on
- what to regard as capital
- ownership of capital
- how to value capital
- disregarded capital, including disregard periods
- particular forms of capital
- effect of capital on Housing Benefit (HB)/Council Tax Benefit (CTB)
- notional capital, and
- deprivation of capital

W1.01-W1.19

**Working age claimants**

W1.20 The reason for looking first at the capital rules before the assessment of HB/CTB is that working age claimants who have more than £16,000 are not entitled to HB or CTB.

W1.21 It is necessary to find out the full value of a claimant’s capital and, under the rules of the schemes, which capital
  - can be disregarded, or
  - must be taken into account

W1.22 If at least £16,000 will be taken into account, you will know immediately that there is no entitlement to benefit, and it is not necessary to
  - make an assessment of the claimant’s income, or
  - calculate the applicable amount

W1.23 Therefore, it makes sense, in terms of administrative efficiency, to make the capital assessment first.

W1.24-W1.29
**Whose capital should be included**

**W1.30** When calculating HB and CTB for working age claimants, treat the claimant as having the capital and income belonging to their partner. Read any reference in this chapter to a claimant as applying to their partner.

*HB Reg 25; CTB Reg 15*

**W1.31** When calculating HB and CTB for pensioners, see BP1 Assessment of capital.

**Treatment of capital owned by child/young person**

**W1.32** Do not include a child’s or young person’s capital with the claimant’s when calculating the amount of capital to take into account.

*HB Reg 25; CTB Reg 15*

**Polygamous marriages**

**W1.40** In the case of a polygamous marriage

- treat the claimant as having the capital and income belonging to each partner, and
- disregard the income and capital of any child or young person who is a member of the family, if the claimant is of working age

*HB Reg 25; CTB Reg 15*

**Treating the claimant as having the capital and income of a non-dependant**

**W1.41** If the Local Authority (LA) has good reason to suppose that a claimant and non-dependant are colluding to receive HB/CTB, or an increase in HB/CTB, treat the claimant as having the capital and income of the non-dependant if this is greater than the capital and income of the claimant. The claimant’s capital and income, in these cases, is ignored.

**W1.42** For HB purposes this provision is in addition to the contrived tenancy provisions, see A3 Claimants who are liable but are treated as if they are not earlier in this manual. **Note:** It cannot be applied to claimants receiving IS, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA(IB)) or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)).

*HB Reg 26; CTB Reg 16*

**W1.43-W1.69**
What is capital?

W1.70 As a general rule, capital includes all categories of holdings which have a clear monetary value, and includes income treated as capital and notional capital.

HB Regs 44, 46 & 49; CTB Regs 34, 36 & 39

W1.71 A payment of capital can normally be distinguished from income because it is

- made without being tied to a period
- made without being tied to any past payment, and
- not intended to form part of a series of payments

W1.72 Capital can take a variety of forms. Examples of capital holdings are shown below.

- a chose in action (known in Scotland as Action of Accounting, or Action for Payment, depending on whether the claimant knows how much money is due)
- absolute entitlement to the whole, or a share, of funds held on trust
- building society accounts
- buildings, but not the property in which the claimant lives
- capital held by the Court of Protection or a deputy appointed by that Court
- Co-operative share accounts
- current and deposit bank accounts, for example Barclays, Abbey National
- fixed term investments, such as building society term shares
- land
- lump sum arrears from the Pension Protection Fund
- lump sum bereavement payment
- lump sum compensation payments
- lump sum redundancy payments, including any ex-gratia redundancy payment from an employer
- lump sum widow’s payments
- money borrowed
- money invested in a business
- money saved under a Save As You Earn (SAYE) scheme
- National Savings Bank accounts
- National Savings Certificates and Ulster Savings Certificates

HB Reg 47; CTB Reg 37
continued
(W.72) • National Savings Income Bonds
• Premium Bonds
• refund of social security contributions
• savings held in cash, for example in the house
• stocks and shares
• Trustee Savings Bank (Lloyds TSB) accounts, including special investment accounts
• unit trusts

This list is not exhaustive and should used as a guide only.

W.73-W.99

Ownership of capital

W.100 The ownership of capital should not normally cause any problem because the asset will usually belong to the person in whose name it is held. Assess any capital on this basis unless ownership is disputed.

Beneficial and legal ownership of capital

W.101 Capital, in whatever form, always belongs to the beneficial owner, that is the person who stands to gain. The person in whose name the capital is held is known as the legal owner. Usually, the beneficial owner and the legal owner are the same person, but this is not always the case. Examples of when the legal owner is not the beneficial owner are when

• a solicitor holds money on behalf of a client
• professional trustees hold property on trust for beneficiaries, under a trust created by a will or by deed of settlement
• a trust arises as a matter of law

W.102 In all these cases, it is clear that the legal owner is not the beneficial owner. The legal owner holds the capital in their name and can deal with it, for example, by withdrawing money from a bank account or selling property, but they do not own the capital, and the law will hold them responsible to the beneficial owner for the way in which they deal with it.

W.103 A person’s capital resources are represented by the amount that they beneficially own. Special rules apply for capital which

• is owned by two or more people, see Jointly owned capital later in this chapter
• the claimant has not got, but is treated as having, see Notional capital later in this chapter
W1.104 In the absence of a declaration of trust, any capital which is held in the claimant's name but is said to be for the benefit of another person should be

- regarded as beneficially owned by the claimant, and
- treated in the same way as other types of personal capital

Ownership disputed

W1.105 If a claimant states that their capital is actually less than seems apparent from the initial information, you should ask for more evidence as necessary.

W1.106 This may include the person’s account of events including why and how the capital came to be in the claimant’s name and possession. If it is claimed that the money is held for someone else, ask for evidence of the

- arrangement
- origin of the money
- intentions for its future use, and
- return to the alleged rightful owner

Example 1

At the date of claim, Mr T declared that he had recently acquired £1,200 which he said was beneficially owned by his uncle. The claimant intended to purchase a car for himself and to repay his uncle in monthly instalments of £100.

Treat the claimant as beneficially possessing the full amount of the capital. The intended use of the money and the manner of the repayments indicate that rather than looking after the money for his uncle, the claimant had received a loan.

Example 2

The claimant’s partner has £8,000 in a bank account in her own name.

The partner was able to show that the money was being held on behalf of her daughter who was working abroad for two years. The intention was that the money would be returned upon the daughter’s return to the UK, following completion of her work.

Treat the claimant’s partner as having no beneficial interest in the £8,000 because she acts as a trustee on behalf of her daughter.

Trust Funds

W1.130 Include a person’s rights to capital under a trust when working out the person’s capital.
When there is a trust

W1.131 There is a trust when a person gives capital to another person to hold and says for whom that capital has to be used. The person
- giving the capital in
  - England and Wales is the donor
  - Scotland the truster
- holding the capital is the trustee and is the legal owner of the capital
- who the capital has to be used for is the donee and is the beneficial owner

W1.132 People for whom the capital has to be used can include the trustee.

Trustees

W1.133 A trustee can be any person or body such as
- a relative
- a solicitor
- a bank
- in England and Wales, the
  - donor
  - Court of Protection. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) selects a regulated banker to hold the money in the name of the beneficiary. The banker needs a court order before being able to release the money to the beneficiary
  - Public Trustees
- in Scotland, the truster

The powers of trustees

W1.134 The powers of trustees, including discretionary powers to release money, are governed by
- the terms of the trust deed
- the law of equity
- in England and Wales only, the provisions of the
  - Trustees Act, or
  - Administration of Estates Act
- in Scotland only, the Succession (Scotland) Act
  Trustee Act 1925; Trusts (Scotland) Act 1921 as amended by Trusts (Scotland) Act 1961
Terms of a trust

W1.135 The terms of a trust

- say what is being held on trust and who the donees are
- do not have to be written down provided the trust property is not land, but if they are, they may be in a
  - will
  - deed of trust, or
  - deed of settlement

Treatment of an interest in a trust

Absolute entitlement to capital

W1.136 A sole beneficiary with an absolute, that is unconditional, interest under a trust which is established (vested) has an actual resource. The beneficiary could call for the entire trust capital and trust income to be transferred to them at any time.

W1.137 If the beneficiary is incapable of managing their affairs, any deputy appointed by the Court of Protection could call for the transfer on their behalf. Even if a person has not yet reached the age of 18 years, if they have an absolute share in a trust fund, treat them as having an actual resource.

W1.138 The value of any capital to which a beneficiary is absolutely entitled should be taken into account in the normal way, whether or not it is paid over by the trustees.

Contingent interest

W1.139 A person who will become absolutely entitled to the money in a trust when some specified event occurs is said to be contingently entitled or to have a contingent interest. For example, if the terms of the trust say a person can have £10000 if the person lives to the age of 21, the interest is a contingent interest. If the person lives to the age of 21 they get £10000. If the person does not live to the age of 21 they get nothing.

W1.140 For benefit purposes, the value of any contingent interest is completely disregarded until the contingent event occurs, when the value of the trust will be taken into account as the claimant's capital unless the funds are derived from a personal injury payment, see Treatment of personal injury payments later in this chapter.
Reversionary interest

W1.141 In England and Wales an interest in a trust is reversionary if the possession or enjoyment of it is postponed to the prior interest of another person in the same capital.

**Example**

George has a reversionary interest in a house if the terms of the trust say

1. Edith has a life interest in that house, and
2. George gets the house on the death of Edith.

George's interest in the house is reversionary until he takes possession of the house. George takes possession of the house when Edith dies.

W1.142 A reversionary interest is not the same as a contingent interest because people with a reversionary interest already have an interest in a trust. They do not have to do something or wait for something to happen before they get an interest in a trust but a person with a contingent interest does.

W1.143 If people with a reversionary interest die before they take possession of their interest the reversionary interest is included in their estate.

Vested interest

W1.144 Children or young people have a vested interest in capital which

- they are the beneficial owners of
- is being held for them until they reach the age of majority, in
  - England and Wales, 18 years old
  - Scotland, 16 years old

W1.145 A vested interest is not the same as a contingent or reversionary interest because the capital already belongs to the child or young person. A child or young person may have a contingent or reversionary interest in a trust which has been set up with another person’s capital.

W1.146 If children and young people with a vested interest die before they get their interest, ie the capital held in trust, the interest is included in their estate.

W1.147 In England and Wales trustees may decide to pay the income earned on a vested interest to the parent or guardian of the child or young person who has the interest\(^1\). If the trustees make a payment of income it is income which is treated as capital and how it is treated for benefit purposes depends on what the payment is intended and used for. The LA cannot make the trustees pay over the income.

\(^1\) Trustee Act 1925, s 31(1)(i)
Life interest or life rent

W1.148 If someone has an interest in a trust for the duration of their life it is called, in
- England and Wales, a life interest
- Scotland, a life rent

W1.149 A person may have a life interest or life rent in the
- capital
- real or heritable property such as a house or trust

W1.150 Rights under a life interest or life rent end with the death of the person who has the life interest. The assets of the trust fund do not form part of their estate as the person is not the beneficial owner of the capital held in trust. Therefore, take into account as income any income generated from the trust and paid to the claimant.

Discretionary trusts

W1.151 A discretionary trust is when the trustees have the discretion to make payments to donees. The trustees usually try to take account of the wishes and intentions of the person who set up the trust. Many trusts let the trustees invest the capital of a trust at their absolute discretion. This means the trustees have a choice in how the capital is invested. This does not mean the trust is a discretionary trust. There has to be something else in the terms of the trust to show it is a discretionary trust.

W1.152 The trustees of a discretionary trust may or may not make payments to the people with an interest. The trustees cannot be made to make payments to those people.

W1.153 If the trustees make a payment it is a voluntary payment. If the payment is made regularly, disregard it as income. Treat irregular payments as capital.

Charitable trusts

W1.154 A charitable trust is always discretionary and must be wholly and exclusively charitable and promote a public benefit.

HB Reg 42, 49 & Sch 6; CTB Reg 32, 39 & Sch 5

W1.155 Charitable trusts do not have to be registered, nor do they have to be administered by registered charities. They are usually for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or religion, or for some other purpose beneficial to the community.

W1.156 Treat one-off charitable or voluntary payments as capital. Regular income payments are charitable payments and fully disregarded.

HB Sch 5 Para 14; CTB Sch 4 Para 15
**Bare Trusts**

W1.157 If money is held in a Bare Trust, the beneficiary has the right to say how the money is spent.

**Investments as part of the trust**

W1.158 The trustees may invest part of the award in

- investment bonds
- stocks and shares
- property
- a business

Disregard these investments in full.

**Example 1**

A trustee buys a cottage which is refurbished using monies from the trust, and then let out as a holiday cottage. The property forms part of the trust’s assets, so is fully disregarded.

The rental income is paid back into the trust and is managed by the trustees. This becomes part of the capital of the fund and is also disregarded.

**When to validate and value capital**

W1.170 Validation and valuation of capital is always required when the declared capital for a claimant exceeds £6,000 or is approaching or may approach that figure.

W1.171 Capital which is not immediately realisable, such as NSB investment accounts which require one month’s notice, or Premium Bonds which take some weeks to realise, should be taken into account in the normal way at its face value.
Disregarded capital

Capital assets disregarded in full

Certain types of capital assets should be disregarded in full. These are

i the claimant's home, referred to in regulations as the principal dwelling, including any garage, garden or outbuildings. This definition extends to any premises, including any land bare of buildings, that are not occupied but which it is impracticable or unreasonable to sell separately, for example, croft land in Scotland

HB Sch 6 Para 1; CTB Sch 5 Para 1

ii premises owned by the claimant and occupied as the home of

  – a partner or relative who has reached the qualifying age for Pension Credit, or who is incapacitated. For the definitions of relative and incapacitated, see Annex A at the end of this chapter

  – the claimant’s partner, provided that the partner and claimant are not estranged or divorced, for example if one of a couple is admitted permanently into residential care, and is no longer treated as a member of the family

HB Sch 6 Para 4; CTB Sch 5 Para 4

iii all capital of a claimant receiving IS, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR)

HB Sch 6 Para 5; CTB Sch 5 Para 5

iv any reversionary interest. This is a term used to describe a resource which a person does not yet have any rights to, but which will come into their possession on a specific date or following some future event, such as reaching a certain age, or on the death of a relative.

Remember: Since October 1995, land or premises let to tenants cannot be disregarded as a reversionary interest

HB Sch 6 Para 7; CTB Sch 5 Para 7

v any assets of a business that is owned in whole or in part by the claimant who is self-employed in that business, but see Self-employed business assets later in this chapter

HB Sch 6 Para 8; CTB Sch 5 Para 8

vi any personal possession, such as a car or caravan, unless it has been acquired for the purpose of obtaining entitlement to, or increasing the amount of HB or CTB. In that event, take into account the market value less 10 per cent if there would be expenses of sale, see Deprivation of capital later in this chapter

HB Sch 6 Para 12; CTB Sch 5 Para 12

vii the value of the right to receive income under an annuity, and the surrender value of that annuity

HB Sch 6 Para 13; CTB Sch 5 Para 13

continued
(W1.180) viii the value of any funds held in trust, and the value of the right to receive any payment under that trust, following payments made to the claimant as a result of a personal injury, such as vaccine damage payments, criminal injuries compensation, see Treatment of personal injury payments later in this chapter

HB Sch 6 Para 14; CTB Sch 5 Para 14

ix the value of the right to receive any income under a life interest or, in Scotland, a life rent. This is when the claimant has an absolute entitlement to the income under the terms of a trust. It is common for a trust deed to specify that the income generated by a fund, or part of a fund, is to be paid to a person for life. This is known as a life interest

A trust deed may specify that income produced by a person's share of the fund's capital is not paid over to them until they reach a particular age, usually 18. This is known as a contingent interest, that is a particular condition must be satisfied. Once a person has satisfied the contingency, for example reached the specified age, they will become absolutely entitled to the income of their share of the fund

HB Sch 6 Para 15; CTB Sch 5 Para 15

x the value of the right to receive any earnings disregarded under paragraph 11 of HB Schedule 4 (paragraph 13 of CTB Schedule 3) or any other income disregarded under paragraph 24 of HB Schedule 5 (paragraph 25 of CTB Schedule 4) because they are trapped in an overseas country and cannot be transferred to the UK because of a legal prohibition

HB Sch 6 Para 16; CTB Sch 5 Para 16

xi the surrender value of any life insurance policy

HB Sch 6 Para 17; CTB Sch 5 Para 17

xii the value of the right to receive any outstanding instalments under an agreement which requires a sum of capital to be repaid by instalments

HB Sch 6 Para 18; CTB Sch 5 Para 18

xiii any payment of capital received by the claimant under Sections 17, 23C or 24A of the Children Act 1989, Section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act, 1968 or Sections 28 or 30 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. These payments are for children boarded out under a fostering arrangement

HB Sch 6 Para 19; CTB Sch 5 Para 19

xiv Social Fund payments, for example maternity or funeral grants

HB Sch 6 Para 20; CTB Sch 5 Para 20

xv any refund of the tax on loan interest if the purpose of the loan was to buy a home or to carry out repairs or improvements to the home

HB Sch 6 Para 21; CTB Sch 5 Para 21

xvi any instalment of capital which is to be treated as income, see BW2 or BP2 Assessment of income later in this part

HB Sch 6 Para 22; CTB Sch 5 Para 22 continued
(W1.180) xvii any banking charge or commission for converting a payment of capital that is made in a currency other than sterling

HB Sch 6 Para 23; CTB Sch 5 Para 23

xviii any payment from the

HB Reg 2 & Sch 6 Para 24; CTB Reg 2 & Sch 5 Para 24

- Macfarlane Trust
- Macfarlane (Special Payments) Trust
- Macfarlane (Special Payments) (No 2) Trust Fund
- Eileen Trust
- MFET Ltd trust fund
- Independent Living Funds
- Skipton Fund
- London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund (LBRCF) and any sum derived from such a payment, but see Treatment of LBRCF payments later in this chapter

xix the home formerly occupied by the claimant which is still occupied by the former partner, following estrangement or divorce, who is a lone parent. The home should be disregarded for as long as it is so occupied

HB Sch 6 Para 25; CTB Sch 5 Para 25

xx any extra-statutory payments made by the Secretary of State to compensate for losses of HB

HB Sch 6 Para 30; CTB Sch 5 Para 29

xxi any compensatory payments made to cover loss of HB Supplement

HB Sch 6 Para 29; CTB Sch 5 Para 30

xxii the value of the right to receive an occupational or personal pension

HB Sch 6 Para 31; CTB Sch 5 Para 31

xxiii the value of any funds held under a personal pension scheme or retirement annuity contract

HB Sch 6 Para 32; CTB Sch 5 Para 32

xxiv the value of the right to receive any rent

HB Sch 6 Para 33; CTB Sch 5 Para 33

xxv any payments in kind made by a charity

HB Sch 6 Para 34; CTB Sch 5 Para 34

xxvi sports awards, but see Treatment of Sports Awards later in this chapter

HB Sch 6 Para 50; CTB Sch 5 Para 52

continued
(W1.180) xxvii Community Charge Benefit

HB Sch 6 Para 36

xxviii any payment made under the Employment Service’s Access to Work scheme for disabled people

HB Sch 6 Para 43; CTB Sch 5 Para 43

xxix any start up payment made by an LA to homeworkers assisted under the Blind Homeworkers’ Scheme. This does not apply to payments made to top up earnings which should be taken into account as income in the normal way

HB Sch 6 Para 44; CTB Sch 5 Para 45

xxx any sum of capital administered on behalf of a person under the age of 18 by the High Court, County Court, Court of Protection, see Trustees and Court of Protection later in this chapter or Court of Session in Scotland, or a regulated banker selected by the MoJ paid as

HB Sch 6 Paras 45 & 46; CTB Sch 5 Paras 47 & 48

– an award of damages for a personal injury to that person

Note: From 2 October 2006, treat these payments as disregarded income, see BW2 or BP2 Assessment of income later in this part, or

– compensation for the death of one or both parents

xxxiv any compensation payment made to people who worked as slave and forced labourers under the Nazi regime during World War 2, where the recipient was the victim of the atrocity, the partner of the victim or the widow or widower of the victim. The victim is the person who, during World War 2, was a slave or forced labourer, suffered property loss or personal injury, or was the parent of a child who died. If the original recipient dies and the compensation payment is inherited by their spouse, the capital disregard will still apply indefinitely

HB Sch 6 Para 56; CTB Sch 5 Para 58

continued
(W.1.180) xxxv any financial support payments to adopters

HB Sch 6 Para 59; CTB Sch 5 Para 61

W.1.181-W.1.199

Capital assets disregarded for 26 weeks

W.1.200 The capital assets listed below are disregarded for 26 weeks or, if it is reasonable in the particular circumstances of the case, for a longer period decided by the LA

i any premises acquired and intended for occupation by the claimant as their home. The disregarded period begins on the date the premises are acquired

HB Sch 6 Para 2; CTB Sch 5 Para 2

ii any sum received from the sale of the former home which is to be used to buy a new home. The disregarded period begins on the date the sale of the former home was completed

HB Sch 6 Para 3; CTB Sch 5 Para 3

iii any sum paid as a result of damage or loss of the home or any personal possession, for example through fire, flood or burglary, and which is intended for its repair or replacement. If a person receives two sums for the same purpose, such as an insurance payment and a loan, combine the two and disregard up to the actual or estimated cost of the work or item. Take any excess into account. The disregarded period begins on the date the sum is received

HB Sch 6 Para 10; CTB Sch 5 Para 10

iv any sum which was deposited with a Housing Association as a condition of occupying the home, and is to be used to buy another home, should be disregarded for 26 weeks or any longer period which the LA considers reasonable in the circumstances to complete the purchase. The disregard should apply from the date that the deposit ceased to be held by the Housing Association

HB Sch 6 Para 11; CTB Sch 5 Para 11

v a dwelling formerly occupied by the claimant following estrangement or divorce from a former partner. The disregarded period begins on the date of leaving the home. A disregard under this provision can only be applied for 26 weeks unless the home is occupied by a former partner who is a lone parent when the disregard applies for so long as the home is so occupied

HB Sch 6 Para 25; CTB Sch 5 Para 25

vi any premises (not just a former home) which the claimant is taking reasonable steps to sell

HB Sch 6 Para 26; CTB Sch 5 Para 26

continued
(W1.200) vii any premises subject to legal proceedings to recover possession for the claimant to occupy those premises as their home

\[ \text{HB Sch 6 Para 27; CTB Sch 5 Para 27} \]

viii any premises which the claimant intends to occupy as their home but which require essential repairs or alterations to make them habitable. This disregard can only be extended for such longer period as is necessary to enable the repairs or alterations to be carried out

\[ \text{HB Sch 6 Para 28; CTB Sch 5 Para 28} \]

ix any element of a sports award which is to be regarded as capital, see Treatment of sports awards later in this chapter

\[ \text{HB Sch 6 Para 50; CTB Sch 5 Para 52} \]

x any grant made to the claimant under Section 129 of the Housing Act 1988, or Section 66 of the Housing Act (Scotland) Act 1988, to help them to

\[ \text{HB Sch 6 Para 38; CTB Sch 5 Para 38} \]

- purchase premises intended for occupation as their home
- carry out repairs and/or alterations to make the premises fit for occupation

**Capital assets disregarded for 52 weeks**

W1.201 In certain circumstances capital assets are disregarded for 52 weeks from the date of receipt

\[ \text{HB Sch 6 Para 9; CTB Sch 5 Para 9} \]

i when payments of arrears, or any concessionary payment to compensate for arrears, if due to official error, see Official error in this chapter, are made for

- Mobility Allowance
- Mobility Supplement
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA)
- Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance (ESDA)
- Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance (SDOA)
- an armed forces service pension based on the need for attendance
- a pension, based on the need for attendance, paid under the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme 1983
- Supplementary Benefit
- HB

continued
• IS
• Community Charge Benefit (CCB)
• Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
• CTB
• JSA(IB)
• ESA(IR)
• Working Families Tax Credit, formerly called Family Credit
• Working Tax Credit (WTC)
• Disabled Person’s Tax Credit, formerly called Disability Working Allowance
• Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Note: The term concessionary payment means payment under arrangements made by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Treasury, which comes out of the same Parliamentary approved funds as benefits payable under the Social Security Acts

ii when payments of arrears are made of
• a special war widow’s payment
  
  *HB Sch 6 Para 39; CTB Sch 5 Para 39*

• a payment or repayment in respect of supplies or travelling expenses made under regulations 3, 5 or 8 of the National Health Service Regulations 1988, or any analogous payment

  *HB Sch 6 Para 40; CTB Sch 5 Para 40*

• a payment made in place of milk tokens or the supply of vitamins under Regulations 9 to 11 or 13 of the Welfare Food Regulations 1988

  *HB Sch 6 Para 41; CTB Sch 5 Para 41*

• a payment made by the Home Department or Scotland Secretary of State under a scheme set up to help relatives or other persons to visit persons in custody

  *HB Sch 6 Para 42; CTB Sch 5 Para 42*

iii any training bonus paid by a managing agent to trainees on a scheme operated under Section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973, or under Section 2 of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990

  *HB Sch 6 Para 35; CTB Sch 5 Para 35*

iv any payment in consequence of a reduction of Council Tax made under section 13, or as the case may be, section 80 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (reduction of liability for council tax), but only for a period of 52 weeks from the date of the receipt of the payment

  *HB Sch 6 Para 37; CTB Sch 5 Para 37*
BW1 - Assessment of capital

(W1.201) v any amount of HB paid to a person granted refugee status by the Secretary of State
  CP Regs Sch 4; HB Para 2; CTB Para 3

vi any amount of IS paid to a person granted refugee status by the Secretary of State
  CP Regs Sch 4; HB Para 2; CTB Para 3

vii any Child Maintenance Bonus (CMB) paid to claimants who have been receiving IS, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR)
  HB Sch 6 & Para 48; CTB Sch 5 Para 50

viii any amount of capital acquired by a person doing the self-employment route of The New Deal for establishing or carrying out that activity
  HB Sch 6 Para 49; CTB Sch 5 Para 51

ix any educational maintenance allowance payable as a family bonus or an achievement bonus at the end of an academic term
  HB Sch 6 Para 51; CTB Sch 5 Para 53

x any discretionary payment made by an employment zone contractor to a claimant participating in an Employment Zone Programme
  HB Sch 6 Para 52; CTB Sch 5 Para 54

xi any subsistence allowance arrears paid as a lump sum
  HB Sch 6 Para 53; CTB Sch 5 Para 55

xii a lump sum personal injury payment. The disregard starts from the date the lump sum payment/first instalment is received, and continues for 52 weeks or until the money is spent, whichever comes first. If part of the money is spent during the 52 week period, the remainder of the 52 week disregard continues for the remaining balance. If the person who received the personal injury payment dies within the 52 week period, the disregard ceases, ie it does not carry over if the partner takes over the benefit claim. Also see Treatment of personal injury payments later in this chapter
  HB Reg, Sch 6 Para 50; CTB Sch 5 Para 52

Treatment of sports awards

W1.202 For the purposes of HB/CTB, the Regulations define a sports award as an award made by one of the Sports Councils named in section 23(2) of the National Lottery Act 1993, paid out of sums allocated to it for distribution under that section.

W1.203 A sports award is disregarded as capital, except when it is paid in respect of
  HB Reg, Sch 6 Para 50; CTB Sch 5 Para 52

• everyday food, but not vitamins, minerals or other special dietary supplements intended to enhance the performance of the person in the sport for which the award was made
continued
(W1.203) • ordinary clothing and footwear for normal daily use, but not school uniforms, clothing, footwear or equipment used solely for sporting activities

• household fuel or rent of the claimant or, if the claimant is a member of a family, any other member of their family, or Council Tax or water charges for which that claimant or member is liable. This does not include housing costs incurred whilst living away from home to train or compete in the sport for which the award was made

W1.204 If elements of the award are disregarded as capital, the disregard is limited to 26 weeks from the date the award is received.

**Treatment of personal injury payments**

**What counts as a personal injury payment?**

W1.205 A personal injury payment is one that must have been made

• in consequence of a personal injury

• to the claimant or a member of their family for whom they are claiming

Personal injuries include diseases, eg lung disease, as well as injuries, eg loss of a limb in an accident.

W1.206 Personal injury payments can include

• Vaccine Damage Payments

• lump sum awards of damages

• out of court settlements, eg by insurance companies

• lump sum gratuities under the War Pensions and Industrial Injuries schemes

• Criminal Injury Compensation Scheme payments

• lump sum payments following charitable collections or public donations made to people injured in an accident or disaster

• lump sum payments from accident insurance

• payments from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) compensation schemes for ex-miners

• payments from the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFRFCS)

**Note:** This list is not exhaustive.

W1.207 If a claimant has received a payment in respect of a deceased relative, the personal injury payment rules do not apply. Instead, normal capital rules should be applied. For example, the DTI payments made to widows of ex-miners cannot be disregarded because they are intended to make sure the person suffering the injury or disease does not suffer any detriment, not their widow.
How to treat payments derived from personal injury awards

W1.208 You will need to establish
- what payments the award has generated
- what payments have been made to, or for, the claimant
- how much has been generated or paid, and when

W1.209 The value of a personal injury payment is disregarded indefinitely if held on trust. The value of the right to receive a payment from the trust is also disregarded.

*HB Sch 6 Para 14; CTB Sch 5 Para 14*

W1.210 If the claimant receives irregular lump sum payments from the fund treat them as capital from the date paid.

*HB Reg 46; CTB Reg 36*

Structured settlements

W1.211 Under a structured settlement, the injured person receives part of the award as a lump sum (often known as a contingency fund), and the rest, often the major part, in the form of an annuity. For treatment of income, see BW2 Assessment of income later in this part.

Ex-miners’ compensation

W1.212 In the case of the ex-miners compensation, treat both the interim and final payments as capital in the normal way. However, the value of a trust fund can be disregarded if

*HB Sch 6 Para 14; CTB Sch 5 Para 14*

- the ex-miner is still alive, and
- he puts the lump sum into a trust fund

Payment held under control of the Court of Protection

W1.213 If the funds derived from a personal injury payment are held under the Court of Protection, disregard the capital value and the right to receive any payment from the fund. The MoJ selects a regulated banker to hold the money in the name of the beneficiary. The banker needs a court order before being able to release the money to the beneficiary

*HB Sch 6 Para 45 & 46; CTB Sch 5 Para 47 & 48*

W1.214 Treat regular income payments as capital from the date paid.

*HB Reg 46; CTB Reg 36*

**Note:** From 2 October 2006, treat these payments as disregarded income, see BW2 or BP2 Assessment of income later in this part
Payment not held under control of the Court of Protection

W1.215 If a claimant has not put the award in trust and it is not under the control of court, treat the award as capital.

Notional income and capital

W1.216 The notional income and capital provisions do not apply to income or capital that derive from personal injury or awards held under the control of the court.  

HB Reg 49; CTB Reg 39

Payments made to a third party

W1.217 Irregular payments made to a third party in respect of a claimant, or member of the family, are capital and how they are treated depends on what the payments are intended and used for.

W1.218 Treat payments as the claimant's capital if they are used for
- food
- household fuel
- rent, that is eligible rent less any deductions for non-dependants
- ordinary clothing or footwear, which is defined as being clothing or footwear for normal daily use, but this does not include school uniforms or clothing and footwear used solely for sporting activities
- Council Tax
- water charges

W1.219 Disregard any payments not used for any of the purposes above.  

HB Reg 49; CTB reg 39

Official error

W1.230 From 14 October 2002, arrears of benefit and/or concessionary payments made to compensate for late payments, that have arisen as a consequence of an official error, should be disregarded for
- 52 weeks from the date of issue for payments less than £5000
- payments of £5000 or more for
  - the duration of the claim to which the arrears payment is first applied, or 52 weeks whichever is longer
  - until the claimant spends that payment if this is less than the duration of the claim
W1.231 In these circumstances ‘duration of claim’ means the award period in which the relevant sum is received and any continuous award periods until the end of the last such period.

W1.232 Arrears of separate benefits should not be added together and a permanent disregard should be applied to each benefit individually. However, concessionary payments to compensate for late payment can be added to the arrears payment as this will have been due as a consequence of the same official error.

W1.233-W1.239

Self-employed business assets

W1.240 Provided the self-employed earner is engaged in the business, their business assets should be disregarded indefinitely.

W1.241 If the self-employed earner stops trading permanently, apply the disregard for whatever period you decide is reasonable to allow for the disposal of each asset, starting on the date the person stopped being a self-employed earner in that business.

W1.242 Apply the test of reasonableness to each asset. It may be appropriate to disregard some assets and take some into account. It is not necessary to wait until all the assets have been realised before taking into account the value of an asset.

W1.243 If the self-employed earner is temporarily not trading because of sickness, an accident or any other incapacity, and they intend to return to their business when they are able, disregard the business assets for 26 weeks. This period may be extended if the circumstances warrant it.

Treatment of vCJD Trust payments

W1.244 Following publication of the BSE Enquiry Report (the Phillips Report) in October 2000, the Department of Health set up trust funds from which payments were made to those who contracted variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), and their immediate families.

W1.245 These payments are not intended to meet day-to-day living costs, and the intention was that recipients of such payments and their families should not lose entitlement to income-related benefits as a result of a trust payment being made to them.

How payments are made

W1.246 Interim payments of £25,000 were made on or after 12 April 2001, and will be followed by a final award. These payments may be directly payable to

- the vCJD victim
- a surviving partner or spouse
- a parent

HB Sch 6 Para 8; CTB Sch 5 Para 8

continued
Money which is derived from one of the trusts may be gifted to, or be inherited on a person’s death by, a claimant or a member of their family.

Recipients of payments from the vCJD trusts were advised to keep the payments in separately identifiable accounts or investments, and were told to inform their LA when payment was received.

**Can payments be disregarded?**

These payments can be disregarded as capital for HB/CTB purposes for either a fixed period or indefinitely, depending on who the recipient is.  

*HB Sch 6 Para 55; CTB Sch 5 Para 57*

**Payments to vCJD victims or their partners**

Payments to vCJD victims, their partners or surviving partners are disregarded indefinitely, ie for their lifetime. The terms ‘partner’ or ‘surviving partner’ applies to a person who

- is, or was, married to and living in the same household as a vCJD victim
- lives with the victim as an unmarried couple, or was living with the victim as an unmarried couple when the victim died
- would be, or would have been, living with the vCJD victim when they died but for the fact that the victim is/was in residential care

**Example**

Jamie Webster died of vCJD in 1999. His widow, Anne Marie, claims HB. Anne Marie received a vCJD trust payment on 30 July 2001.

The payment is disregarded for Anne Marie’s lifetime.

**Payments to parents or persons acting in place of parents of vCJD victims**

Payments to the parent of a vCJD victim, regardless of the age of the victim, or to a person who is or was acting in the place of a parent of a dependent child victim, is disregarded for a period of two years from the date the payment was made to them.
Example 1

Lydia Morris died on 20 March 2001. Her father, Jack Morris claims HB. He received a payment from the vCJD trust on 17 April 2001.

The payment is disregarded as capital until 17 April 2003.

Example 2

Andy Johnson is 15 and suffers from vCJD. His parents are dead and he lives with his elder brother, Ivan, who is a private tenant. Ivan is acting as Andy’s father. He receives WFTC and HB.

Andy received a payment from the vCJD trust on 12 April 2001, which is disregarded indefinitely.

Andy died on 27 July 2001 and Ivan inherited the remainder of the payment that Andy did not spend and receives it on 27 September 2001.

The capital Ivan inherited from the trust is disregarded until 27 September 2003.

Example 3

Natalie Mackie, 14, lives with her grandparents Gina and Terry. They get CTB.

Natalie’s father, Karl, gets Child Benefit (ChB) for her. Gina and Terry have not made a claim for ChB for Natalie.

Natalie suffers from vCJD and received a payment on 19 April 2001.

Natalie died on 2 August 2001 and Gina and Terry inherited the remainder of the vCJD trust payment that Natalie did not spend. This capital cannot be disregarded if they can be treated as having acted in place of her parents. The fact that they did not get ChB for her is only one factor amongst many that you would need to take into account when deciding if the capital can be disregarded.

Payments to a dependent child or young person

W1.252 Payments made to a dependent child or young person, or payments derived from such payments, are disregarded for two years from the date

- on which the payment is made, or
- of payment to the date before
  - they leave full time education, or
  - their 19th birthday

whichever is the latest

continued
Example

Judy and Keith Malone live with their dependent son, Craig, who is aged 15. Keith died of vCJD on 21 May 2001. On 15 July 2001, Craig inherited £35,000 and his mother inherited £45,000. Both these amounts are derived from a vCJD trust payment made to Keith. Judy and Craig have no other capital.

Judy claims HB for herself and Craig.

Judy's capital is disregarded during her lifetime.

Craig stays in full time education until he is 17. Judy continues to claim for him after this date as a dependant up to his ChB terminal date.

Craig’s capital will continue to be disregarded in Judy’s claim until Craig is aged 19 or 15 July 2003, whichever the latest.

Derived payments - overall limit

W1.253 When capital is derived, either as a gift or inherited on a victim's death, by a claimant or member of their family, the disregard only applies to capital up to the amount of any trust payments made to the victim.

Example

Holly Jones' partner, Hywel, received a vCJD trust payment in respect of his daughter, Emma. Hywel died six months after Emma's death. Holly is the sole heir to the estate.

Apart from £45,000, the remainder of the vCJD trust payment that he did not spend, Hywel left £6,500 in Premium Bonds.

The disregard only applies to the £45,000 vCJD trust payment. The £6,500 is treated as capital in the normal way.

Capital derived from a vCJD trust payment

W1.254 The capital disregard only applies to the original vCJD trust payment. Any income generated from the trust payment should be taken into account in the normal way, and claimants must inform the LA of any such income.

Deprivation of capital

W1.255 The two year disregard is in place to allow a reasonable time for recipients to spend the money as they wish, including for example, making gifts.

W1.256 Normal deprivation rules apply at the end of the disregard period.
Treatment of LBRCF payments

W1.270 Following the terrorist attacks in London on 7 July 2005, the LBRCF was set up to provide relief for those directly affected.

W1.271 From 12 December 2005 all payments made by the LBRCF are fully disregarded. The disregard applies equally for both current and future benefit awards. The disregard may be

- indefinite
- for two years

W1.272-W1.279

Indefinite disregard

W1.280 An indefinite disregard applies to all payments from the LBRCF made to the

HB Sch 6 Para 24; CTB Sch 5 Para 24

- qualifying person, ie the injured/deceased person
- qualifying person's
  - partner
  - spouse/partner
  - child

Example 1

The injured person receives a payment from the LBRCF. For benefit purposes the payment is disregarded in full for the remainder of their life.

Example 2

The spouse and child of a person killed in the London bombings each receive a payment from the LBRCF. For benefit purposes the

- spouse's payment is disregarded in full for the remainder of the spouse's life
- child's payment is disregarded in full for the remainder of the child's life
W1.281 In addition, an indefinite disregard applies to derived payments, ie payments made out of money received from the LBRCF made to the qualifying person’s

- spouse/partner
- child

**Example 3**
The injured person receives a payment from the LBRCF. They transfer £2,000 to their partner’s bank account. For benefit purposes, the £2,000 is disregarded in full for the remainder of the partner’s life.

**Example 4**
The injured person receives a payment from the LBRCF. They transfer £5,000 to their child’s bank account. For benefit purposes, the £5,000 is disregarded in full for the remainder of the child’s life.

W1.282-W1.289

**Two year disregard**

W1.290 Following the death of the qualifying person, a two year disregard applies to derived payments made to

- their parents
- a guardian, where the qualifying person was a child

W1.291 In these circumstances, any payment made

- out of the estate of the qualifying person to their parent/guardian is disregarded for a maximum of two years
  - starting from the date payment is made out of the estate
  - ending two years from the qualifying person’s death

**Example 5**
The injured person dies on 15 March 2014. In their will they left £2,000 of the LBRCF to their mother. The estate is settled and the mother receives her payment on 16 May 2014. For the mother’s benefit purposes, the £2,000 is disregarded in full from 19 May 2014 to 14 March 2016.

- by or on behalf of the qualifying person to their parent/guardian before their death continues to be disregarded until the end of two years form the qualifying person’s death.

continued
Example 6
The injured person gave £4,000 of their LBRCF to their father. The injured person dies on 15 May 2008. For the father’s benefit purposes, the £4,000 is disregarded in full from 15 May 2008 to 14 May 2010.

Effect of capital on HB/CTB

Capital over £16,000

W1.330 A claimant who has capital over £16,000 after any disregards have been applied is not entitled to HB or CTB.

HB Reg 43 & 44; CTB Regs 33 & 34

Capital of £6,000 or less

W1.331 If a working age claimant has capital of £6,000 or less, the
• capital is ignored, and
• claimant is entitled to HB and/or CTB, provided they satisfy the other conditions

Capital between £6,000 and £16,000

Tariff income

W1.350 If a working age claimant who has not reached the qualifying age for Pension Credit has capital of over £6,000 but not more than £16,000 after any disregards have been applied, treat them as having an income from their capital equivalent to £1 a week for each multiple of £250 (rounded up to the next £250), between £6,000 and £16,000. This income is known as tariff income.
W1.351 A table showing tariff income from capital is shown at Annex B at the end of this chapter. 

\[ HB \text{ Reg } 52; \text{ CTB Reg } 42 \]

**Example 1**
A claimant with capital totalling £6,290 is treated as having a tariff income of £2 a week.

**Example 2**
A claimant with capital totalling £6,006 is treated as having a tariff income of £1 a week.

**Example 3**
A claimant with capital totalling £5,995 is treated as having no tariff income.

**Increased disregard for certain HB claimants in residential care**

W1.352 Since April 1996, capital of £10,000 or less is disregarded for some HB claimants in residential care. The claimants who may benefit from this increased disregard are those

\[ HB \text{ Reg } 52 \]

- with pre-1993 preserved rights, including those with pre-1990 preserved rights, see Note A below
- living in *unregistered* Abbeyfield homes
- living in Act of Parliament/Royal Charter homes, such as Salvation Army or Royal British Legion Homes, and board and personal care are provided, except where they are treated as nursing homes, see Note B below

W1.353 It is not intended for claimants living temporarily in such accommodation to benefit from the increased disregard. However, the provisions will apply to claimants permanently resident in such accommodation if they are only temporarily absent, for up to 13 or 52 weeks as appropriate, see **BW2 or BP2 Assessment of income** later in this manual.

W1.354 Those claimants benefiting from the increased disregard are treated as having weekly tariff income of £1 for each multiple of £250, (rounded to the next £250), of capital over £10,000 but not more than £16,000. Capital of £10,000 or less is ignored. The right-hand column of **Annex B** at the end of this chapter shows the calculation of tariff income for these claimants.

**Notes:**

A  Claimants with preserved rights include those people in registered homes or LA homes who obtained access to HB before April 1993, irrespective of whether they also fall within one of the above provisions, for example
- those in remunerative work
- people paying a commercial rent in homes run by close relatives, and

continued
(W1.354) – people in registered homes who were or became entitled to HB in respect of such accommodation on 29 October 1990, see A4 Eligible rent earlier in this manual

Certain residents of small homes that had to be registered from 1 April 1993 may also have preserved rights, see A4 Eligible rent earlier in this manual.

B Personal care means the personal care needed because of, for example, old age, disablement, past or present dependence on alcohol or drugs, or past or present mental disorder. It means all that the proprietors must do to preserve and promote the health, safety and emotional well-being of the residents. It is broadly equivalent to the care which might be provided by a competent carer, and includes assistance with bodily functions when such assistance is required.

W1.355-W1.379

Jointly owned capital

W1.380 When a claimant jointly owns a capital asset (other than property) with others, obtain the claimant’s share by dividing the total value of the asset by the number of joint owners. The resulting figure is treated as the claimant’s capital resource.

HB Reg 51; CTB Reg 41

Example

If two people have a joint building society account totalling £10,000 to which one has contributed £8,000 and the other £2,000, treat each as possessing £5,000.

W1.381-W1.399

Capital assets held abroad

W1.400 When capital assets are held in a country outside the United Kingdom, the amount to be taken into account in the calculation of benefit will depend on the conditions for its transfer to the UK.

HB Reg 48; CTB Reg 38

W1.401 If capital held abroad can all be transferred to the UK without restriction, obtain its value in the country where it is held. The amount to take into account is the total value less

• 10% for expenses of sale, and

• the amount of any charge or debt secured on it, such as a mortgage
W1.402 If you need to determine the value of capital in a country outside the UK, ask the claimant for evidence

- from one of the following
  - a bank of the country concerned in this country or in the other country
  - a solicitor
  - an accountant
  - an estate agent, or similar person, in the country concerned
  - a stockbroker
- which states
  - details of the asset
  - the names of the beneficial owners
  - the precise value of the asset, if known, but otherwise an estimate value
  - its sale price, if the asset is for sale
  - whether a loan could be raised in the other country using the asset as security and, if so, the amount which could become available to the claimant

W1.403 In some circumstances the LA may require other evidence, for example the

- purchase price of the asset
- date of purchase of the asset
- amount of capital invested in developing or converting land or buildings

W1.404 If the claimant says that any capital held in a country outside the UK cannot be wholly transferred to the UK because of some prohibition in that country, for example currency restrictions, ask for evidence. Acceptable evidence of the prohibition on transfer of capital to the UK would include documents or letters from a

- bank, either in this country or abroad, or
- government official or a solicitor

W1.405 This evidence should show

- details of the asset
- its value in the country in which it is held
- whether any money is available directly from the asset and, if so, the amount and date it would become payable
- whether the asset is for sale and, if so, the progress and prospects of such a sale
- the nature and terms of the restriction being imposed which prevents the transfer of all the capital to the UK, for example if some capital can be transferred immediately and some at intervals later on
After the LA has examined the evidence on the value of the asset, deal with the claim as follows:

- If transfer of the capital is prohibited, take into account the value that a willing buyer would pay in the UK for the assets. This is likely to be less than the market or surrender value in the foreign country.
- If the claimant satisfies you that there is no willing buyer, disregard the capital.

In these circumstances review the case at reasonable intervals, such as quarterly, in order to check that the prohibition still exists and/or there is still no willing buyer.

If, after examining the evidence, you decide that no restrictions exist, then value the capital as normal.

Valuation of capital

Capital should be valued at its current market or surrender value less 10% if there are costs involved in disposing of it. The 10% is the standard allowance that is applied whatever the actual costs of disposal. Any charge or debt secured against it should also be deducted.

HB Reg 47 & 48; CTB Reg 38 & 37

National Savings Certificates

When valuing National Savings Certificates (NSC) you need the current market value or surrender value of the certificates. Ask the claimant to provide a valuation or you can use the online calculator available on the NS&I website www.nsandi.com.

Up to 2005 NSCs were uprated annually in July. As an aid at Annex C, at the end of this chapter, there are three tables for the valuation of National Savings Certificates (NSC) up to July 2005 that apply to all income-related benefits:

- 5-year NSC, available for purchase from 19 February 1916 to July 2005
- 3-year NSC, available for purchase from 26 June 2003 to July 2005
- 2-year NSC, available for purchase from 8 October 1999 to July 2005

You must establish which types of certificates the claimant holds.

The following points should be noted:

- For 42nd and 8th index-linked issues onwards, the value is based on a minimum purchase price of £100.
- Where only one value appears against the ordinary and reinvestment elements of an issue, the value is the same.
- For all issues no longer on sale, the valuation is calculated at the last day of sale.
W1.443  Current values are valued at the first date of sale, and the following issues are currently on sale
- 5-year 77th fixed
- 5-year 35th Index linked
- 3-year 8th Index linked
- 2-year 27th fixed

**Rounding up units of NSCs**

W1.444  When a claimant holds an NSC for an odd amount, ie not for a whole unit, this is because
- an earlier NSC has been cashed in and reinvested
- NSCs purchased from September 1994 onwards can be for any amount over the minimum purchase price of £100.00

W1.445  To establish the number of units held, divide the total value shown on the NSC by the purchase price for that particular issue. This is because if the claimant were to cash in the NSC, National Savings would pay the precise value of the NSC, including fractions of units. Therefore you must calculate the precise value of units held and **not** round up to whole units.

**Example**

42nd Reinvestment Certificate shows a total value of £2,926.70.  
The purchase price for each unit was £100.  
Divide by purchase price per unit, ie £2,926.70 ÷ £100  
Total = 29.26 units  
Multiply the number of units (29.26) by the value of unit as at 1 July 2003 (£138.65) to get total value of Certificate 29.26 x £138.65 = £4,056.89  
Therefore value of NSC to take into account is £4,056.89

W1.446  Once certificates have been cashed in, the actual amount realised should be taken into account as capital if not yet spent. If any large amounts have been spent, consider deprivation of capital, see *Deprivation of capital* later in this chapter.

W1.447-W1.449

**Precise valuation required**

W1.450  For precise valuations ask the claimant to provide the information as the NS Department can no longer do so.
Ulster Savings Certificates

W1.451 Send requests for the valuation of Ulster Savings Certificates to
The Department of Health and Social Services
Income Support Division
Fermanagh House
Ormeau Avenue
Belfast BT2 8HY

Land, building or house property

W1.470 If any member of the family owns land, building or house property which is not disregarded, that is land or property other than the claimant's home, you should obtain a current market valuation unless one is already available. A valuation can be obtained from the District Valuers Services. For foreign properties (including Northern Ireland) see Capital assets held abroad earlier in this chapter.

Valuing the property

Action before requesting a valuation

W1.475 Before requesting a valuation

• consider the capital disregards see Disregarded capital earlier in this chapter, and
  
  HB Sch 6; CTB Sch 5

• if a valuation is needed, obtain the claimant's written permission for a valuation.
  Remember: To comply with the Data Protection Act you must obtain written permission to pass the relevant information to the valuer

W1.476 Send form LA1 to the claimant to get

• written permission to carry out the valuation

• more information about the property to help in the valuation. As the valuation by the District Valuers Services is external, full details of the property and any circumstances that may affect its value will help in determining an accurate valuation, such as whether the property has tenants

A copy of form LA1 is shown at Annex D at the end of this chapter.

W1.477 When preparing the LA1 before sending it to the claimant, you must write the case reference number on the form. The case reference number

• must not exceed 16 characters

continued
(W1.477) • should enable you to identify the claimant, even if quoted alone
  • is needed by the DWP for audit checks and claimant satisfaction surveys

W1.478 When you receive the completed LA1 from the claimant
1 ensure the claimant has
   a fully completed the form and it is legible
   b agreed to the property being valued, and
   c signed the form

The District Valuers Services will return incomplete or incorrectly completed forms to the LA

2 prepare and send form LA2 to the District Valuers Services together with the completed LA1 to request a valuation

W1.479 If the claimant does not agree to a valuation of their property, assess capital using a notional valuation. This notional valuation could result in a higher amount being taken into account.

Obtaining a valuation from the District Valuers Services - form LA2

W1.480 When you have the claimant’s permission, send form LA2 to the District Valuers Services, with the completed LA1.

W1.481 Prepare the LA2 before sending it to District Valuers Services
  • clearly write the case reference number on the form. The case reference number
    – must not exceed 16 characters
    – should enable you to identify the claimant, even if quoted alone
    – is needed by the DWP for audit checks and claimant satisfaction surveys
  • clearly write the full address and postcode of the property to be valued
  • advise the District Valuers Services whether the valuation is for a wholly owned property (the open market value) or a jointly owned property (the deemed market share)
  • all references to deemed market share should be accompanied by a reference to actual market share
  • if the valuation is in respect of land, include a plan with the submission showing the boundaries and the name of the nearest main road
  • specify the date for which the valuation is required. It would normally be the date of claim or the date a member of the family becomes the owner of land or property, if this is later. A maximum of three dates can be requested. Additional forms must be submitted if more than three dates are required
  • clearly indicate that the valuation is for HB and/or CTB purposes. This will ensure no charge is made

continued
(W1.481) • clearly print a telephone number in case of queries
  • complete the LA address for the District Valuers Services to return the completed valuation
  • sign and date the form, clearly printing your name underneath your signature in case of any queries

Note: Make sure the completed forms are sent to the District Valuers Services shown on form LA2. Form LA2 is shown at Annex E at the end of this chapter.

W1.482 When appropriate, the percentage beneficial share should be explicitly stated.

Multiple valuations for same property

W1.483 You may ask for the value of a property of up to three different dates, both forms LA1 and LA2 allow for this. Additional forms must be submitted if more than three dates are required.

Action by the District Valuers Services

W1.484 When the District Valuers Services have valued the property, the valuer will
  • complete the appropriate part(s) of form LA2. If the property is
    – owned by one beneficial owner (wholly owned properties), valuer completes page 2
    – jointly owned property, valuer completes pages 3, 4 and 5, deleting sections A-J as necessary
  • give their opinion of
    – the open market value of the property
    – the value of the claimant’s share of the property, assuming the property was sold whole and the proceeds split amongst the owners. If this value is
      ~ nil, the valuer is not required to give an opinion of the value of the deemed share
      ~ greater than nil, the valuer will give their opinion of the value of the deemed share if only that share was sold on the open market

W1.485 The District Valuers Service
  • provides follow-up reports if requested. If a claimant disputes a valuation and the matter is referred to an appeal tribunal or a court hearing, a follow-up report should always be obtained. Disputed valuations should not progress as far as an appeal tribunal or a court hearing based on the valuation advice contained in form LA2 alone
  • does not deal with enquiries from the general public or foreign property valuations (this includes Northern Ireland which is classed as foreign for contract purposes). For calculation of capital assets held abroad see Capital assets held abroad earlier in this chapter
W1.486  If you receive an invoice from the District Valuers Services, send it to
Benefit Delivery Specialist Operations Team
Room 3525
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds LS2 7UA

W1.487-W1.489

Claimant disputes the valuation

W1.490  If the claimant disputes the valuation

• never tell the claimant to contact the District Valuers Services direct or refer the dispute to
  the District Valuers Services

• check with the claimant
  – why they are querying the valuation
  – that they have provided all the information about the property. If the claimant
    • supplies new information, you should request another valuation from the District
      Valuers Services
    • has already supplied all the information and the property is wholly owned, you
      should request a follow-up report from the valuer. This is a written report justifying
      the valuation figure
    • has already supplied all the information and the property is jointly owned, there are
      no follow-up reports for these cases. The original information provided by the District
      Valuers Services provides all the necessary information

    The follow-up report for wholly owned properties, or the original report for jointly
    owned properties, can be referred to at appeal hearings

• tell the claimant to seek a review or appeal of the benefit decision. The claimant should
  contact the decision maker about this, not the District Valuers Services

In very exceptional circumstances the valuer may have to attend an appeal hearing.

Jointly owned property

Joint tenancy

W1.491  When a claimant jointly owns a property with others and the joint ownership arrangement
is a joint tenancy, obtain the claimant’s share by dividing the total value of the asset by the
number of joint owners. The resulting figure is treated as the claimant’s capital resource.

Example

If three joint tenants own a house in equal proportions treat each as possessing one
third of the value of the house.
Tenants in common

W1.492 When a claimant jointly owns a property with others and the joint ownership arrangement is a tenancy in common, the value of the share is the actual share that each owns. The resulting figure is treated as the claimant's capital resource.

Example

If three tenants in common own a house in the proportions X = 50%, Y = 25%, Z = 25%, treat each as possessing the actual share which they own.

W1.493 When you receive the District Valuers Services' valuation of a jointly owned property

- do not deduct any debts secured on the property, such as a mortgage, from the valuation provided as the District Valuers Services will have already deducted these from the value of the property
- deduct the 10% for expenses connected with selling the property, if there would be expenses on selling

W1.494-W1.509

Stocks and shares

W1.510 The term stocks and shares refers to marketable holdings, for example in

- the ownership of a company, or
- government or LA bonds, such as war bonds, or
- a loan made to a company on which interest is paid by the company at a fixed rate until the principal is repaid (these are called ‘debenture’ loans)

W1.511 Treat the

- value of the bond as capital
- interest generated by the bond as income from a capital asset

W1.512 The value of stocks and shares may bear little resemblance to their face value. For the purposes of calculating benefit entitlement, you must establish the market value. Before deciding whether a precise valuation is necessary, it is useful to obtain an approximate market value.

Example 1

A claimant owns 200 shares with a nominal (or par) value of 25p each, but they have market value of £35 each. Total capital value £7,000.

Example 2

A claimant owns 10,000 shares of a nominal (or par) value of £1 each but their market value is 12 pence each. Total capital value £1,200.
W1.513 Your valuation should relate to the value on the date the claim for benefit is made, or treated as made, and be based on relevant information, such as the Stock Market pages in a national newspaper. Use the ‘bid’ column price, if quoted, or the daily price figure, for example for Treasury bonds. The flat rate allowance of 10% should be deducted for selling costs. Annex F at the end of this chapter gives examples for ‘valuing’ government stocks.

W1.514-W1.529

Unit trust holdings

W1.530 Unit trust holdings are valued on the basis of the bid price which is quoted in the newspapers. There are no additional expenses of sale in selling a holding in a unit trust because the bid price quoted takes account of all selling expenses, commissions etc. Do not deduct the standard 10% for selling costs.

W1.531 It is possible to incur additional expenses of sale if a unit trust is sold through a bank or stockbroker. But since it is not necessary to sell them this way to get the full price, ignore any additional expenses of this kind. A claimant need only send the unit trust certificate to the managers of the fund who will forward a remittance for the value of the holding.

W1.532-W1.549

Particular forms of capital

Advance of earnings or loan from employer

W1.550 Treat any advance of earnings or loan made to an employed earner by their employer as capital. The payment does not form part of the employee's regular income and has to be repaid.

Example 1
A claimant received £294 in one week but their pay slip showed that £200 of this was a loan made by the employer. Treat £94 as earnings and £200 as capital.

Example 2
A claimant started work as an employee of an insurance company, with a basic salary of £600 per calendar month. The bulk of their earnings is expected to be made up by commission.

At the end of the first month, the claimant received £980 which represented salary of £600 and an advance of anticipated commission from the employer of £380. The advance of £380 should be treated as capital, and the £600 as normal earnings.
Backdated pay awards

W1.551 Treat backdated pay awards as earnings, see BW2 or BP2 Employed earners, Definition of earnings and A6 Claimant entitled to arrears or increase in income.

HB Reg 35 & 79; CTB Reg 25 & 67

Bounty payments

W1.552 Treat as capital any bounty which is

- derived from employment as a
  - part-time fireman
  - auxiliary coastguard
  - part-time member of a crew for launching or manning a lifeboat, or
  - member of a territorial or reserve force, and
- paid at intervals of at least one year

HB Reg 46; CTB Reg 36

Capital paid by instalments

W1.553 When payments of capital are made by instalments, the value of the right to receive the outstanding instalments is always disregarded. The actual instalments, when received, should be treated as shown below, depending on the particular circumstances.

HB Sch 6 Para 18; CTB Sch 5 Para 15

Claimant or partner’s capital paid by instalments

W1.554 If the claimant or partner’s capital is paid by instalments

1 total the value of the instalments outstanding on the date the HB or CTB claim is made or treated as made, or at the date of any subsequent review, and

2 add to that total all other capital of £16,000 or less held or treated as held by the claimant and partner

HB Reg 41; CTB Reg 31

W1.555 If the total capital calculated

- exceeds £16,000, treat each instalment as income
- is £16,000 or less, treat each instalment as capital

Child or young person’s capital

W1.556 Disregard a child or young person’s capital in the HB/CTB assessment.

HB Reg 25; CTB reg 15
**Charitable or voluntary payments**

W1.557 Treat as capital any charitable or voluntary payment which is not made or due to be made at regular intervals. This does not apply to payments from any of the Macfarlane Trusts or the Fund, the Eileen Trust, the MEFT Ltd trust fund, the LBRCF, or payments from the Independent Living Funds, which are already fully disregarded. See *Capital assets disregarded in full, xvii* earlier in this chapter.

* HB Reg 46; CTB 36

**Chose in action**

W1.560 Chose in action means ‘a thing that can be sued for’ and is an actual capital resource. It exists when there is an entitlement to receive a sum of capital at a future date, for example a debt, an outstanding claim for compensation or an interest in an unadministered estate.

W1.561 If the payment, or repayment, of that capital sum is not made in the agreed manner or at the proper time, there is a right to sue in a court of law. That right to receive the resource, and with it the right to sue, can be sold to another party. It therefore has a market value which should be taken into account.

W1.562 In Scotland Chose in action is called ‘Action of Accounting’ or ‘Action for Payment’.

**Court of Protection**

W1.580 The Court of Protection is an office of the High Court, rather than a court in its accepted sense. It is responsible for the management and protection of property belonging to people, including children, who lack the mental capacity to manage their own affairs.

W1.581 A judge of the Court may appoint a ‘deputy’ to manage the property and affairs of a person for whom the Court is responsible. The MoJ selects a regulated banker to hold the money in the name of the beneficiary. The banker needs a court order before being able to release the money to the beneficiary. Any funds held for a member of the family by the Court of Protection, or by a deputy appointed by the Court, should be treated as capital belonging to that member of the family.

W1.582 Funds held in a trust set up by the Court of Protection are an actual capital asset of the beneficiary.

*Note:* From 2 October 2006, treat these payments as disregarded income, see *BW2 or BP2 Assessment of income* later in this part.

W1.583-W1.599
**Fixed term investments**

W1.600 These are investments, for example in building societies, local authorities, which are for a fixed period and for that reason produce a higher rate of interest.

W1.601 Building societies will usually arrange to release money before the end of the fixed term if a person claims hardship. Take such investments into account at their face value unless there is evidence that the current surrender value is different.

W1.602 When a claimant provides evidence that a fixed term investment cannot be realised until the completion of the fixed term, the value of that investment will depend on whether the agreement under which the investment was made allows it to be assigned to a third party.

W1.603 If an investment can be assigned to a third party, which it usually can, it has a market value which should be taken into account. If restrictions prevent its assignment its market value is NIL.

W1.604-W1.619

**Friendly Societies – personal deposit accounts**

W1.620 Contributors to Friendly Societies may make deposits to build up personal accounts from which payments may be made to them, in addition to the Society’s usual sick pay, during illness.

W1.621 Treat savings in a Friendly Society deposit account as capital. Any payments received from that account are withdrawals of capital and do not constitute income, even if paid regularly. However, the payments will reduce the value of the account.

**Holiday pay**

W1.622 Holiday pay which is payable more than four weeks after the end of the contract of employment should be treated as capital. In these circumstances, establish the

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HB Reg 46; CTB Reg 36
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- date the contract of employment terminated
- reasons why the employment ceased, and
- date holiday pay was due to be paid

W1.623 Outstanding earnings and holiday pay are normally paid on the final working day or payday, but note

- an employer is legally obliged to make payment of outstanding earnings and holiday pay on the final working day if
  - the employment has run its course, for example a three months engagement
  - due notice of leaving has been given and served by the employee, or
  - the employer has terminated the contract without giving the required notice

continued
Example

The claimant's employment terminated on 1 August. The claimant collected holiday pay on 12 September. The holiday pay could have been collected by the claimant at any time from 22 August onwards.

In this case the holiday pay is not treated as capital because it is payable on 22 August which is less than four weeks after the claimant's employment ended.

• if the employee has terminated the contract without giving notice, the employer may withhold holiday pay until the appropriate payable date. For example, if employment ends in February but outstanding holiday pay is not due until July, the employer can pay either in February or on any date up to the due date in July. If the employer pays before the due date in July, the date on which payment is made becomes the payable date

Example 1

The claimant gave and worked due notice before their employment terminated on 22 April. The contract of employment provides for part of the claimant's holiday pay (for a closedown period between 4 July and 17 July) to be paid on 1 July.

The employer has agreed to pay the outstanding holiday pay on 27 May. The payable date of the holiday pay would have been 1 July, but that date had been varied by mutual agreement between the parties to 27 May. Because 27 May is more than four weeks after the claimant's employment ended, treat the holiday pay as capital.

Example 2

A claimant's partner's employment terminated when the partner walked out, without giving notice on 2 August. The partner's contract of employment provided for payments to be made on the last working day of the month and for one month's notice to be given by either party.

The employer relied on the contract to make a final payment of earnings and holiday pay on 31 August.

The holiday pay is treated as capital because it is payable more than four weeks after the date of termination of employment, that is 2 August.

Income from a capital asset

W1.624 The Regulations specify certain income from disregarded capital assets is to be taken into account as income.

W1.625 In all other cases, income from capital is ignored as income in the assessment but treated as capital from the date it is normally due to be paid to the claimant or credited to their account. For example, in the case of a rented property that falls to be taken into account, any rent from that property should be taken into account as accruing capital and not as income.

HB Reg 46 & Sch 6 Para 16; CTB Reg 36 & Sch 5 Para 16
If capital is held in an account which attracts interest, you should ensure the account is up to date at the time of the claim. Interest is usually added to an account at six-monthly or yearly intervals. Only request further information about the account if:

- this has been overlooked, and
- it may be relevant to the calculation of entitlement, for example it may bring the total capital to an amount over £6,000.

### Income treated as capital

#### Tax refunds

Any refund of income tax charged under Schedule D or E should be treated as capital. Schedules D and E cover tax on:

- profits of a business
- interest on capital or an annuity
- an employed-earner’s earnings (Pay As You Earn)

**Example**

A claimant’s partner’s take-home pay of £104 includes a PAYE tax refund of £21. Treat the claimant as having:

- earnings in that week of £83, and
- capital of £21

When a member of the family has an interest in an unadministered estate, that interest is a chose in action and should be valued as such, see *Chose in action* earlier in this chapter.

**Lump sum compensation payments**

Treat lump sum compensation payments as capital. Examples are lump sum payments:

- of death benefit under the Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases Benefit Scheme
- under the Coal Board’s (or British Coal’s) Pneumoconiosis Compensation Scheme continued
(W.641) • made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
  • at common law for injury or death (including vaccine damage payments)
  • of damages under the Fatal Accidents Act paid for the death of a child's father or to a woman for the death of her partner

Remember, the value of any compensation payment for personal injury which is held in trust, or the value of the right to receive any payment under that trust, is disregarded. See Disregarded capital earlier in this chapter.

**Matrimonial assets on breakdown of marriage**

W.642 A separated or divorced person may have a beneficial interest in any property of the marriage, such as the former matrimonial home or a joint building society account, see Ownership of capital earlier in this chapter.

W.643 If the property in question is jointly owned and does not fall to be disregarded, the value of that interest should be calculated in the normal way, see Disregarded capital and Jointly owned capital earlier in this chapter.

W.644 If all of the person's beneficial interest in the property is legally contested, assume a nil value until the question of ownership is settled.

**Example 1**

The claimant's former partner occupies the former matrimonial home. The home was jointly owned by the former partner and the claimant, who now lives in rented accommodation with their two children. Both parties are taking legal action to obtain sole ownership of the property.

The claimant could eventually own the whole, part or none of the property. Until the question of beneficial ownership is resolved treat the claimant's interest as nil.

**Example 2**

The claimant's former partner occupies the former matrimonial home, having evicted the claimant and their three children. The home was jointly owned by the claimant and former partner.

The former partner has taken legal action to obtain ownership of the whole property, and acknowledges that the claimant has a half interest in the property but is legally contesting the claim to the other half.

At the time of the claim, the claimant has an uncontested joint beneficial interest in the property, the extent of that interest, whether 5%, 50% or 95%, is not relevant, and therefore the claimant's share should be calculated by dividing the total value of the property by two, that is the number of joint owners, see Jointly owned property earlier in this chapter.

continued
Disregard the value of the claimant’s share in the property for 26 weeks from the date the claimant left the property, see *Capital assets disregarded for 26 weeks* earlier in this chapter.

At the end of this period you may need to consider whether other disregards may be appropriate.

**Payments under an annuity**

W1.660 Any payment received by the claimant under an annuity should be treated as income.

* HB Reg 41; CTB Reg 31

**Redundancy payments including severance pay**

W1.661 Treat lump sum redundancy payments as capital. If a severance payment has been negotiated with the employer in addition to, or instead of statutory redundancy payments, treat the severance pay as capital, but only to the extent it exceeds the amount treated as loss of income.

* HB Reg 35; CTB Reg 25

**Notional capital**

W1.680 A person may be treated as possessing a capital asset even though they do not actually have that capital asset. Such assets are called notional capital. Examples of these are

* HB Reg 49; CTB Reg 39

- a trust fund, see *Trust funds* earlier in this chapter
- the deliberate disposal of capital for the purpose of claiming or getting an increase in the amount of benefit. In these cases authorities can treat the claimant as still having the capital, see *Deprivation of capital* later in this chapter
- in certain cases, payments of capital to third parties, see *BW2 Payments to, or in respect of, a third party* later in this part
**Deprivation of capital**

**W1.700** Treat a claimant as possessing notional capital if they have deprived themselves of the capital for the purpose of receiving or getting an increase in HB and/or CTB.

_HB Reg 49 & 50; CTB Reg 39 & 40_

**W1.701** The intention to deprive applies to each benefit, see _General issues on deprivation_ later in this chapter.

**Example**

Two weeks before claiming benefit, a claimant who was aware of the capital rules gave her brother £10,000 of her capital of £21,000.

The remaining £11,000 affects entitlement in that a tariff income will arise from this amount, while the original amount of £21,000 would have automatically disentitled the claimant.

In these circumstances the claimant could be treated as possessing the £10,000 in addition to the £11,000 she actually holds.

**Identifying deprivation**

**W1.702** You will most likely identify potential deprivation of capital when examining a change of circumstances or a repeat claim. For example, when entitlement has been refused because the claimant’s capital exceeded £16,000 and a repeat claim is made soon afterwards when capital of less than £16,000 is declared.

**W1.703-W1.709**

**Deciding if claimant formerly owned the capital**

**W1.710** You must decide on the basis of whatever evidence is available whether the claimant formerly owned the capital. If the facts are in dispute, examples of evidence of former ownership might be shown by

- a will bequeathing a specific sum to the claimant
- a bank book or statement, or
- a verified statement in an earlier claim
**Burden of proof**

W1.711 The burden of proving that a claimant no longer has a resource rests with the claimant, because it is for them to establish title to benefit. Evidence of the disposal of capital would include

- a trust deed
- a deed of gift
- receipts for all the expenditure, or
- proof that debts had been repaid

W1.712 If a claimant is unable to produce satisfactory evidence that they have disposed of a capital asset, you may conclude that they still possess the actual capital asset. The amount disposed of must be treated as notional capital, and added to any other capital that the claimant has.

W1.713 If the total of the notional capital plus actual capital is between £6,000 and £16,000, calculate tariff income. If the total of notional and actual capital exceeds £16,000, the claimant is not entitled to HB.

W1.714 The following are further examples of when a person may have deprived themselves of capital:

- a lump sum payment has been made to someone else, for example as a gift, or to repay a debt, but see Reason for disposing of capital asset later in this chapter
- substantial expenditure has been incurred on a non-essential item, for example on an expensive holiday
- title deeds of a property, which is not the claimant's home or will soon cease to be so because, for example, they will be moving elsewhere, have been transferred to someone else
- money has been put into a trust which cannot be revoked
- money has been converted into another form which would fall to be disregarded, for example personal possessions
- capital has been reduced by extravagant living, for example gambling, or used to provide a much higher standard of living than the claimant usually maintained

W1.715-W1.729

**Reason for disposing of capital asset**

W1.730 There may be reasons for disposing of a capital asset other than to receive or get an increase in the amount of HB. Securing entitlement to benefit need not be a person's main motive but it must be a significant one if you are to treat them as having notional capital. For example, if a claimant gave their son or daughter money to prevent their home being repossessed, the main reason would be to help the child, not secure or increase entitlement to HB/CTB.
W1.731 To decide whether securing entitlement to benefit was a significant purpose, you must establish whether the claimant has exercised choice when disposing of the resource. If claimants do no more than satisfy their need for one of the necessities of life, they have not exercised a real choice in the transaction.

W1.732 When capital has been used to repay a debt give careful consideration as to whether the debt needed to be repaid at that time. If there was no legal obligation to do so then it may be that part of the claimant’s purpose was to obtain or increase the amount of benefit.

W1.733-W1.739

**Knowledge of the capital limit**

W1.740 Claimants cannot be held to have deprived themselves for the purposes of securing benefit or an increase in benefit if they did not know the resource would affect entitlement to benefit.

W1.741 The LA must show that on the balance of probabilities, the claimant knew, at least in broad terms, that

- HB and CTB are income-related benefits, and
- there must be a capital limit above which benefit is not payable

W1.742 It may be considered common knowledge that such a limit exists, but the LA must consider the claimant’s educational standing, history of claiming and information sent by way of official forms and leaflets before making a finding of fact on the matter.

W1.743 Claimants are unlikely to admit that securing benefit was a significant reason behind their actions. Therefore conclusions must be drawn about the claimant’s purpose from the reasons given and from all the other circumstances of the case.

W1.744 It is not sufficient to conclude that a significant purpose must have been to secure benefit solely because entitlement was a foreseeable or natural outcome of the deprivation. It is necessary to look at all the circumstances and decide what motivated a claimant to exercise choice in that way.

W1.745 Extravagance or imprudence do not of themselves establish that the deprivation was for the purpose of securing or increasing the amount of benefit. It is evidence pointing in that direction, but all the circumstances of the case must be considered.

W1.746 The timing of the deprivation in relation to the benefit claim may give an indication of whether or not securing benefit was a significant purpose behind the deprivation.

W1.747 Similarly claimants’ explanations of how they intended to pay their rent and council tax following the deprivation may help in making a finding of fact.

W1.748-W1.759
**Diminishing notional capital**

W1.760 When an LA has decided that a claimant has deliberately disposed of capital to receive, or get an increase in the amount of, HB and/or CTB, the amount disposed of must be treated as notional capital, and added to any other capital the claimant has.

HB Reg 49 & 50; CTB Reg 40 & 39

W1.761 Calculate the amount of HB and/or CTB payable using
- **actual** capital held, if any
- **total** capital, that is any **actual** capital held plus the **notional** capital

W1.762 The calculation is always based on full weekly HB/CTB entitlement. Convert a part-week payment made if rent liability starts within a benefit week to a full weekly payment, see A5 Monthly rents, Method 2 earlier in this manual for more information.

W1.763 The week in which the claimant is held to have notional capital which affects the amount of HB payable, or results in entitlement to HB/CTB, is called the relevant week. **Note:** In CTB the relevant week can be a part week.

HB Reg 50; CTB Reg 40

W1.764 The next step in the procedure depends on whether the claimant has any benefit entitlement when notional capital is taken into account.

**Claimant still entitled to HB**

W1.765 If the claimant is still entitled to HB after all notional capital has been taken into account, the decision notice should tell the claimant
- their HB award has been reduced because of deprivation, and
- the amount by which HB has been reduced on a weekly basis

W1.766 Using the HB amounts payable based on **actual** capital held and **notional** capital held, calculate the difference between the two. This is the HB lost because of deprivation.

W1.767 Confirm with CTB colleagues whether any CTB has also been lost because of deprivation and if it has, add that sum to the HB lost. Similarly if a claimant can show they have lost some other benefit, that is IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit, because of deprivation, these amounts should be added to the amount of HB lost. **The onus is on the claimant** to provide this information, by means of the decision notices issued showing the amount of IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit that has been lost. **Note:** The reference to JSA(IB) and ESA(IR) applies to pensioner cases because there could be cases where a claim for JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) would have been unsuccessful due to a deprivation of capital decision. In such cases, as the claimant would not be in receipt of JSA(IB) or ESA(IR), the HB/CTB claim would have to be dealt with under SI 2006/214.

W1.768 Deduct this total amount, on a weekly basis, from the notional capital.
Whenever these weekly deductions have accumulated sufficiently to take the total of actual and notional capital through a tariff income band, that is a block of £250/£500, a new calculation of HB is required.

There will then be a reduction in weekly tariff income of £1 and an increase in the amount of HB payable to the claimant. Compare this new amount of HB actually paid with the amount the claimant would have got on the basis of their actual capital. The difference between these two amounts forms the new amount of HB lost, and is added to any new amount of DPTC, IS, Pension Credit, CTB, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) lost, if applicable. This total amount of lost benefit forms the new sum to be deducted from the notional capital.

This process is repeated until

- the claimant’s actual and notional capital totals less than
  - £6,000 (from April 2006)
  - £10,000 for people permanently resident in a care home, or
- the notional capital is eroded, or
- there is a change in the claimant’s circumstances which affects the calculation of their HB

**Claimant still entitled to CTB**

If the claimant is still entitled to CTB after all notional capital has been taken into account, the decision notice should tell the claimant

- the CTB award has been reduced because of deprivation, and
- the amount by which CTB has been reduced, on a weekly basis

Using the CTB amounts payable based on actual capital held and notional capital held, calculate the difference between the two. This is the CTB lost because of deprivation.

Confirm with HB colleagues whether any HB has also been lost because of deprivation and if it has, add that sum to the CTB lost. Similarly if a claimant can show they have lost some other benefit, that is IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit because of deprivation, these amounts should be added to the amount of CTB lost. The onus is on the claimant to provide this information, by means of the decision notices issued showing the amount of IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit that has been lost.

Deduct this total amount, on a weekly basis, from the notional capital.

When enough of these weekly deductions have accumulated to take the total of actual and notional capital through a tariff income band, that is a block of £250/£500, a new calculation of CTB is required.
W1.777 There will then be a reduction in weekly tariff income of £1 and an increase in the amount of CTB payable to the claimant. Compare this new amount of CTB actually paid with the amount the claimant would have got on the basis of their actual capital. The difference between these two amounts forms the new amount of CTB lost, and is added to any new amount IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit lost, if applicable. This total amount of lost benefit forms the new sum to be deducted from the notional capital.

W1.778 This process is repeated until
- the claimant's actual and notional capital totals less than
  - £6,000 (from April 2006)
  - £10,000 for people permanently resident in a care home, or
- the notional capital is eroded, or
- there is a change in the claimant's circumstances which affects the calculation of their CTB

**Claimant is not entitled to HB/CTB when notional capital is applied**

W1.779 If the claimant is not entitled to HB and/or CTB following a notional capital calculation, the disallowance notification to the claimant should state the
- reason for the disallowance
  
  **HB Reg 50; CTB Reg 40**

  - weekly amount they would have received had they not been held to have deprived themselves of capital

W1.780 HB assessors should check with CTB colleagues about the CTB position. If the claimant has also lost some CTB because of the application of the deprivation rule, the weekly amount of CTB lost should be added to the weekly amount of HB lost. Similarly, CTB assessors should check with HB colleagues and add weekly HB lost to the weekly CTB lost.

W1.781 Add to this figure any IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit lost because of deprivation.

W1.782 The total of these lost benefits becomes the weekly amount by which notional capital is reduced for HB and/or CTB and remains at this level for 26 weeks. A new calculation is done after 26 weeks (from week 27).

W1.783 Include the amount of the weekly reduction being applied to the notional capital with the information the claimant is given with their disallowance notice.

  **HB Reg 49 & 50; CTB Reg 40**

W1.784 When there is no entitlement to HB/CTB, there is no need to enter into continuing assessments. However, a record should be kept of these cases in case the claimant reapply for HB/CTB.
**Claimant reappears for HB and/or CTB**  

HB Reg 49 & 50; CTB Reg 39 & 40

W1.785 If the claimant reappears for HB and/or CTB, check the amount of declared capital. It may well be different from the amount declared on the original claim on which the deprivation question was decided.

W1.786 It is acceptable that the claimant may have drawn on their capital to cover at least the HB and CTB they have not received. However, if the new amount of capital declared is substantially lower, authorities should investigate the reasons, and decide whether the claimant has deprived themselves of more capital.

W1.787 If you accept the new capital figure, the action taken depends on whether the claimant reappears

- 26 weeks or more after the date of original decision, or
- less than 26 weeks after the date of original decision

**Claimant reappears 26 weeks or more after date of deprivation decision**

W1.788 The notional capital on the earlier assessment must be reduced. To get this figure

- multiply the amount of the weekly reduction of HB/CTB by the number of weeks since the LA decided that the claimant deprived themselves of capital
- deduct this figure from the original notional capital. This gives the new notional capital figure to be used

W1.789 Add the new notional capital to the actual capital, if any, declared on the reapplication.

W1.790 Calculate the amount of HB and/or CTB payable using

- **actual** capital now held, if any
- **total** capital, that is any actual capital held and the new **notional** capital

W1.791-W1.794

**Claimant reappears less than 26 weeks after date of deprivation decision**

**Change in claimant’s circumstances**

W1.795 If a claimant reappears less than 26 weeks after the date of the deprivation decision and circumstances **other** than capital have changed, such as the claimant as married, or a baby has been born, reassess HB and/or CTB on the basis of the new circumstances.

W1.796 Calculate the amount of benefit payable using

- **actual** capital now held, if any
- **total** capital, that is any actual capital held and the new **notional** capital
The notional capital on the earlier assessment must be redetermined. To get this figure:

- multiply the amount of the weekly reduction of HB/CTB by the number of weeks since the LA decided that the claimant deprived themselves of capital
- deduct this figure from the original notional capital

This will give the new notional capital figure to be used.

The next step in the procedure depends on whether the claimant has any benefit entitlement when the new notional capital is taken into account, see Claimant becomes entitled to HB and/or CTB or Claimant still not entitled to HB and/or CTB later in this chapter.

No change in claimant’s circumstances

If the claimant reapplies less than 26 weeks after the date of the deprivation decision and there are no changes in their circumstances, keep the rate of weekly deductions at the original level.

The notional capital of the earlier assessment is reduced by multiplying the original weekly reduction of HB/CTB by the number of weeks since the earlier decision.

The next step in the procedure depends on whether the claimant has any benefit entitlement when the new notional capital is taken into account, see Claimant becomes entitled to HB and/or CTB or Claimant still not entitled to HB and/or CTB later in this chapter.

Claimant becomes entitled to HB and/or CTB

If the claimant is now entitled to HB and/or CTB,

1. put the relevant benefit into payment, see A6 Deciding and paying benefit
2. reduce notional capital by the weekly total of HB and/or CTB lost.

Claimant still not entitled to HB and/or CTB

If the claimant is still not entitled to HB and/or CTB the latest amount calculated is the new amount of the assessed benefit lost. Add to this the amount, if any, of the other LA administered benefit also lost, plus any IS, JSA or ESA(IR) lost. These amounts may also have been revised as a result of a recalculation of notional capital in that other benefit assessment.

Compare this new total benefit lost figure with that already being used. If the new benefit lost figure is

- greater than the earlier calculation, this higher amount becomes the new weekly amount by which notional capital is reduced, or
- less than the earlier calculation, the weekly amount by which notional capital is reduced remains current

A6 Deciding and paying benefit

HB/CTB Guidance Manual

April 2009 Amdt 18
W1.805 The effect is to make sure that the weekly reduction in notional capital for benefit lost can be increased as a result of reassessment but it is never to be decreased.

W1.806 The claimant should be informed of the new nil decision and of any increase in the weekly amount by which their notional capital is reduced. Separate notifications should be made for HB and CTB.

W1.807 The process of considering entitlement to HB and/or CTB is repeated, see Claimant still not entitled to HB and/or CTB earlier in this chapter.

W1.808-W1.829

**IS/JSA/ESA claimants affected by deprivation**

W1.830 IS, JSA and ESA Regulations state that if a decision has been made that an IS, JSA or ESA claimant has disposed of capital to receive IS, JSA or ESA, or get an increase in either benefit, the notional capital should be reduced by the sum of the lost amounts, if any, of

- IS, JSA or ESA
- HB
- CTB

W1.831 If, despite deprivation, a claimant is entitled to IS, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR), the claimant should receive maximum HB and CTB. Any existing HB or CTB deprivation assessments are put into abeyance by entitlement to IS, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR).

W1.832 When an IS/JSA/ESA deprivation decision takes a claimant off IS/JSA/ESA, the DWP office reduces the calculated notional capital by the amount of the lost benefits.

W1.833 The DWP office will know the amount of IS/JSA/ESA lost, but it also needs to know how much HB and CTB, if any, has been lost because of deprivation.

W1.834 For this group of claimants, the loss is the difference between the

- HB and CTB actually in payment, if any, and
- maximum HB and CTB that the claimant would get automatically if they were in receipt of IS, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR)

W1.835 The onus is on the claimant to show the DWP office how much HB and/or CTB they are actually receiving. There should be sufficient information in the HB and CTB decision notices sent to the claimant.

W1.836 If the claimant has not kept the notices of determination covering the relevant weeks, it is possible that they may ask you to confirm the relevant decision. It is expected that this will be the limit of the involvement required of local authorities in such cases.

W1.837-W1.869
General issues on deprivation

W1.870  It is possible that IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR), Pension Credit, HB and CTB may reach a different decision about whether a claimant has disposed of capital to receive benefit or a higher rate of benefit. It is also possible that the capital amount the claimant is deemed to have disposed of may be different in each benefit.

W1.871  These potentially different decisions and/or amounts arise from the fact that the deprivation regulations for each benefit have to focus on the fact that the deprivation has to have as a motive, not necessarily the only motive, the intention to get that particular benefit or more of it.

W1.872  The regulations aim to help authorities and social security offices reach a reasonable figure by which the notional deprived capital can be reduced over time.

W1.873  When treating a claimant as having a notional capital resource, you must ensure the resource is not counted twice, for example by counting the value of personal possessions and the amount the claimant is treated as having deprived themselves of by purchasing the items. Do not treat a notional resource as possessed for all time. For information about taking the value of personal possessions into account, see Disposing of capital to buy personal possessions below.

Disposing of capital to buy personal possessions

W1.890  If, for the purpose of obtaining benefit or more benefit, capital that would not have been disregarded has been used to acquire personal possessions, the current market value of those possessions should be taken into account as an actual resource. Their market value should not be disregarded under paragraph 12 of HB Schedule 6 or paragraph 8 of HB(SPC) schedule 6 (Paragraph 12 of CTB Schedule 5).

Deprivation of jointly owned capital

W1.930  If, for the purposes of securing benefit or an increase in benefit, a claimant has disposed of capital which was jointly owned, special rules apply. Treat the claimant as having disposed of any part of which they were the beneficial owner.
W1.931 If, as a joint owner, the claimant was treated as possessing more capital than they owned beneficially, disregard any excess over the actual capital they possessed when deciding whether deprivation had occurred.

**Example 1**
A claimant owned £10,000 of a joint bank account totalling £40,000 with one other person. A claim for benefit was refused because she was treated as having capital of £20,000. The claimant arranged for the joint account to be closed and invested her £10,000 in a building society.

She made a further claim which was accepted because her capital of £10,000 did not exceed the prescribed limit and she was not treated as depriving herself of a resource.

**Example 2**
Mr L owned a 75% share in a piece of land worth £40,000. There were two other owners. Believing that his £30,000 investment would preclude entitlement to benefit he gave his share of the land to his son. He then claimed benefit.

He was treated as having notional capital of £27,000, that is three quarters of £40,000 less 10% for selling costs.

**Example 3**
Mrs Y owned a 25% share in a piece of land worth £40,000. There were two other owners. Believing that her £10,000 investment would reduce the amount of benefit she would get, she gave her share of the land to her daughter. She then claimed benefit.

A notional capital calculation would show a figure of £12,000, that is one third of £40,000 less 10% for selling costs. However, as this is more than she beneficially owns, she is deemed to have notional capital of £9,000 that is one quarter of £40,000 less 10% for selling costs.

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**Payments to third parties**

W1.950 A payment of capital made to a third party but intended for someone else, is subject to special rules. The treatment of such a payment depends on whether it is made to or for a member of the family, and how the payment is used. The third party can include a public body, such as an LA.

*HB Reg 49; CTB Reg 39*
**Payment to a third party for a member of the family**

**HB Reg 49; CTB Reg 39**

**W1.951** Any payment made in respect of a member of the family, but paid to a third party outside the family, should continue to be treated as part of the family’s capital if it is used to provide

- food
- ordinary clothing or footwear
- household fuel
- rent
- council tax, or
- water charges

For the definition of ordinary clothing or footwear and rent, see **BW2** or **BP2 Assessment of income**.

**W1.952** If the payment is an occupational pension or Pension Protection Fund lump sum payment it is treated as possessed by the claimant regardless of how it is used. This does not apply to a bankrupt person who has no other income and their occupational pension is paid direct to creditors/trustees.

**Payment to member of the family for a third party**

**W1.953** A payment of capital may be made to a member of the claimant’s family for a person who is not a member of the family, for example a daughter who is a long-term hospital patient. Treat such a payment as belonging to the member of the family to whom it is paid (for example the claimant) to the extent that it is kept by that person or used on behalf of any member of the family. Ignore the remainder of the payment.

**W1.954** The LA must decide on the available evidence whether and how much capital should be treated as kept by the claimant. All the capital should be treated as kept by the claimant if

- they have no intention of paying it over or using it for the third party, or
- after a reasonable period of time, they have no plans to
  - pay it over, or
  - use it for the third party

**W1.955-W1.999**
Definitions used in this chapter

Definition of relative

A1.00 A relative is defined as a relative of a single claimant, or if the claimant has a partner, a relative of any member of the family who is a

HB Reg 2

a  parent  j  brother
b  parent-in-law  k  sister
c  son  l  grandparent
d  son-in-law  m  grandchild
e  daughter  n  uncle
f  daughter-in-law  o  aunt
g  step-parent  p  nephew
h  step-son  q  niece
i  step-daughter  r  the spouse of any of a to k.

Definition of incapacitated

A1.01 The term incapacitated is not defined in the regulations. It would be reasonable to conclude that a relative or partner is incapacitated if one of the following conditions apply

a  the person is receiving one (or more) of the following benefits

•  Incapacity Benefit (IB)
•  Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
•  Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
•  Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA), Attendance Allowance (AA), or a benefit analogous to any of these, or

b  the person has not qualified for one of the benefits at a but the degree of incapacity is equivalent to that required to qualify for any one of these benefits. It may be that issues of age and incapacity inter-relate. Medical or other relevant evidence may be needed to enable the local authority to make a decision
**Tariff income assumed from capital**

1. This annex takes account of the changes brought in by the introduction of Pension Credit in October 2003.

2. Two new columns have been added, to show the assumed income from capital in Pension Credit cases, and the amount of assumed income in cases where the claimant is permanently resident in a Care Home.

3. The lower capital limit for income-related benefits increased from £3,000 to £6,000 with effect from 1 April 2006 in respect of people aged under 60 years.

4. The lower capital limit for income-related benefits increased from £6,000 to £10,000 with effect from November 2009 in respect of people who have reached the qualifying age for Pension Credit.

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<th>Value of capital between and</th>
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### Annex B

#### Weekly tariff income in HB for certain people in residential accommodation

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| 1st  
15s.6d. | 19 Feb 16 - 31 Mar 22 | £4.51 | £4.56 | £4.61 | £4.66 | £4.71 | £4.76 | £4.82 | £4.86 | £4.91 | £4.96 |
| 2nd  
16s | 01 Apr 22 - 29 Sep 23 | £4.44 | £4.49 | £4.54 | £4.59 | £4.64 | £4.69 | £4.74 | £4.79 | £4.84 | £4.89 |
| 3rd  
16s | 01 Oct 23 - 30 Jun 32 | £3.75 | £3.80 | £3.85 | £3.90 | £3.95 | £4.00 | £4.05 | £4.10 | £4.15 | £4.20 |
| Conversion  
16s | 18 Jan 32 - 23 May 32 | £3.75 | £3.80 | £3.85 | £3.90 | £3.95 | £4.00 | £4.06 | £4.10 | £4.15 | £4.20 |
| 4th  
16s | 02 Aug 32 - 31 May 33 | £3.24 | £3.28 | £3.33 | £3.37 | £3.41 | £3.45 | £3.49 | £3.53 | £3.57 | £3.62 |
| 5th  
16s | 01 Jun 33 - 28 Feb 35 | £3.13 | £3.17 | £3.21 | £3.25 | £3.29 | £3.34 | £3.38 | £3.42 | £3.46 | £3.50 |
| 6th  
| 7th  
15s | 22 Nov 39 - 31 Mar 47 | £5.16 | £5.35 | £5.54 | £5.72 | £5.86 | £6.04 | £6.15 | £6.24 | £6.32 | £6.46 |
| £1 issue  
15s | 11 Jan 43 - 31 Mar 47 | £5.16 | £5.35 | £5.54 | £5.72 | £5.86 | £6.04 | £6.15 | £6.24 | £6.32 | £6.46 |
| 8th  
10s | 01 Apr 47 - 31 Jan 51 | £3.32 | £3.44 | £3.56 | £3.68 | £3.77 | £3.88 | £3.97 | £4.01 | £4.06 | £4.14 |
| 9th  
15s | 01 Feb 51 - 31 Jul 56 | £4.32 | £4.47 | £4.63 | £4.79 | £4.90 | £5.05 | £5.17 | £5.23 | £5.29 | £5.39 |
| 10th  
15s | 01 Aug 56 - 12 Mar 63 | £3.69 | £3.82 | £3.95 | £4.09 | £4.19 | £4.32 | £4.40 | £4.46 | £4.52 | £4.62 |
| 11th  
£1 | 13 May 63 - 26 Mar 66 | £4.81 | £4.98 | £5.15 | £5.32 | £5.46 | £5.63 | £5.73 | £5.82 | £5.87 | £6.01 |

* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)
For Notes see end of this Annex.
## Table for valuing 5-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005

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* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)

For Notes see end of this Annex.
### Table for valuing 5-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005

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For Notes see end of this Annex.
**Table for valuing 5-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005**

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* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)
* For Notes see end of this Annex.
## Table for valuing 5-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005

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* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)

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For Notes see end of this Annex.
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* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100).

For Notes see end of this Annex.
## Table for valuing 5-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005

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For Notes see end of this Annex.
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## Table for valuing 2-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005

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* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)

For Notes see end of this Annex.
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*The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)
For Notes see end of this Annex.
## Table for valuing 2-Year National Savings Certificates - July 2005

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<th>Issue no. &amp; purchase price of each unit</th>
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* The price of each unit is shown but they can only be purchased in blocks of 4 units (£100)

For Notes see end of this Annex.
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For notes see end of this Annex.
Notes:

1. Where the value of the last preceding 1 July is shown as "-", or the certificates are from a new issue not yet shown on this table, take the purchase price as the capital value.

2. Since the 42nd issue in 1994, certificates may be purchased for any amount subject to a minimum purchase of £100 (except for Reinvestment Certificates where there is no minimum) and a maximum holding.

3. For valuations of National Savings Certificates, telephone either of the following numbers between 9am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

   - 0845 964 5000 charged at local rates
   - 0191 374 5022 charged at normal rates

4. Where the issues are no longer on sale the valuation is calculated at the last date of sale whereas the value of current issues are at the first day of sale.

5. The issues currently on sale are:
   - five-year 7th fixed and 37th index-linked
   - three-year 10th index-linked
   - two-year 29th fixed

   The issues currently on sale are:
   - five-year 7th fixed and 37th index-linked
   - three-year 10th index-linked
   - two-year 29th fixed
Form LA1
(click here if you want to print this form)

We need some more information

In your application for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit, you said that you have an interest in property which is not the property you are living in.

We need some more information about the property before we can decide how much benefit you could get.

Please answer the questions as if you were doing so on

Date

/ / /

If there have been any changes since this date, tell us on a separate sheet of paper.

When you have answered the questions, send this form back to us. Use the envelope we have sent you. It does not need a stamp.

If you have any recent papers to show how much the property is worth, please send them to us with this form.

This could be a valuation document or evidence of the sale of the property. We will send the papers back to you.

If you cannot send us anything to show how much the property is worth, we may have to arrange for the property to be inspected externally by an independent valuer.

The valuer will give an opinion about the value of the property. Please make sure you tell us everything about the property which may affect its value.

If you need any help to fill in this form, please get in touch with us. Our phone number and address are at the top of this page.
### Part 1: About the property

1. **Full address of the property.**
   - If you have an interest in more than one property, tell us about the other properties on a separate form L21 or answer all the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.
   - [ ] House, bungalow or flat
   - [ ] Block of houses or flats
   - [ ] Shop or warehouse
   - [ ] Land

   - [ ] acres / hectares
   - [ ] Postcode

2. **Please tell us what type of property it is.**
   - [ ] Number of bedrooms
   - [ ] acres / hectares
   - [ ] Please send an Ordnance Survey plan of the land showing the boundaries

3. **Are you taking steps to dispose of the property or your share in it?**
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Yes
   - Please tell us about this on a separate sheet of paper.
   - [ ] Please send proof that the property is for sale, such as estate agent's sale particulars.

4. **Is the property subject to divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership proceedings?**
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] What stage have the proceedings reached?
   - [ ] When did you leave the matrimonial home/home of the civil partnership?

5. **Do you intend to live in the property?**
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] When do you intend moving in?

6. **What is your interest in the property?**
   - [ ] Freehold
   - [ ] Leasehold
   - [ ] Other

   - [ ] How long is the lease for?
   - [ ] What date did the lease start?
   - [ ] How much is the rent or ground rent, excluding VAT? £ every
   - [ ] Please send a copy of the tenancy agreement

   - [ ] Please give details
### Part 1 About the property continued

#### 7 Is there a mortgage or other charge on the property?
- **No**
- **Yes**
  - How much is outstanding? £

  Please send a copy of the latest mortgage statement.

#### 8 Has planning permission been granted for any proposed changes to the property?
- **No**
- **Yes**
  - Please tell us about this on a separate sheet of paper.

For example, the building of an extension.

#### 9 Has planning permission been refused for any proposed changes to the property?
- **No**
- **Yes**
  - Please tell us about this on a separate sheet of paper.

What the plans were and why permission was refused.

#### 10 Are there any legal restrictions on the property?
- **No**
- **Yes**
  - Please tell us about this on a separate sheet of paper.

#### 11 Are there any tenants living in the property or using it for business?
- **No**
- **Yes**
  - Please tell us about them.

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<th>Names of all the tenants</th>
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<th>Amount of rent you should get every excluding VAT</th>
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Please tick to tell us the type of tenancy:
- Assured
- Assured shorthold
- Protected business tenancy
- Other business tenancy
- Other residential tenancy

Please send a copy of the tenancy agreement, if you can.
Part 1  About the property continued

12 Please tell us about anyone who
   • lives in the property who is not a tenant, or
   • uses it for business.

   Name of occupier/user  

   Person 1  
   Do they live there?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Do they use it for business?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  

   Person 2  
   Do they live there?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Do they use it for business?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  

   How long have they occupied the property?  
   
   Relationship to owner or tenant if any  
   
   Age if 69 or over or if under 19 and still in education  
   
   Are they a lone parent?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Are they sick or disabled?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   What social security benefits do they get, if any?  
   
   What date was this benefit paid from?  
   / /  

   Person 3  
   Name of occupier/user  
   Do they live there?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Do they use it for business?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  

   Person 4  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Do they live there?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Do they use it for business?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  

   How long have they occupied the property?  
   
   Relationship to owner or tenant if any  
   
   Age if 69 or over or if under 19 and still in education  
   
   Are they a lone parent?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   Are they sick or disabled?  
   No ☐ Yes ☐  
   What social security benefits do they get, if any?  
   
   What date was this benefit paid from?  
   / /  

13 Please tell us about the outgoings on the property.
   If someone else is responsible for any of the following items, please get their permission to tell us this information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount and how often it is paid</th>
<th>Name of person who pays it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>£ every</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground rent</td>
<td>£ every</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council tax or business rate</td>
<td>£ every</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water charges</td>
<td>£ every</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent charge</td>
<td>£ every</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please tell us about any other outgoings</td>
<td>£ every</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 2 About jointly owned property

14 Do you jointly own the property with anyone?
   No ☐  Go to Question 24 at the start of Part 3.
   Yes ☐  Please tell us the names of all the owners.

   Names of owners who would be entitled to a share in the proceeds if the property was sold (the beneficiaries):

   Names of legal owners of the property who would not be entitled to a share in the proceeds if the property was sold – for example, trustees or solicitors.

15 Are you a joint tenant (joint owner in Scotland)?
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

   This will apply to you if your share would increase automatically if one of the other owners were to unfortunately die.

16 Are you tenant in common (common owner in Scotland)?
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

   This may apply if the share is written down in a legal document. If it is written down, please send us a copy of the document.

   What is your share?

17 Did you buy the property?
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

   Please explain how the property came into your possession (eg the property was left to you in a will, my son bought it for me)

   Yes ☐

   i) What was the original purpose of buying the property? (ie, the reason you originally bought it – as a home, an investment etc)

   ii) Did you purchase the property yourself? (ie, did you finance the property from your own savings or with a loan from a building society, bank etc). If not, please explain.

18 What is the property used for at the moment?

19 Would any of the other owners be willing and able to buy your share?
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

20 Would any of the other owners be willing to sell the property as a whole?
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

21 Are there any agreements between the owners about selling the property, if one of the joint owners wanted to sell it?
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

   If one of the joint owners wanted to sell, would they be likely to take legal action to force a sale?

   Yes ☐

   Please tell us about this on a separate sheet of paper.
Part 2  About jointly owned property continued

22 Has a share in the property ever been sold before?  
   No □  
   Yes □  
   How much was it sold for? £ ________  
   When was it sold? / /  

23 Are there any court orders which affect the way the property is sold?  
   No □  
   Yes □  
   Please tell us about this on a separate sheet of paper.

Part 3  More about the property

24 Is there anything else that may affect the value of the property?  
   No □  
   Yes □  
   Please tell us about this in the box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For example,</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the interior is derelict or sub-standard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>restrictions on its use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shared access or difficulties or restrictions on access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if services are provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if a smallholding or land for personal use is attached to it (in addition to any garden)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if it is occupied only in part, (tell us which part).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25 What is your estimate of the value of the property at the date on the front of this form? £ ________

26 Do you give us permission to arrange for the property to be valued by an independent valuer, if necessary?  
   No □  
   Yes □  
   If No, please tell us why.

Remember that any valuation will be done by means of an external examination, in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidelines. It is important that you give us as much information about the property as possible so that we can obtain an accurate valuation.

Part 4  Your declaration

I understand that if I give information that is incorrect or incomplete, I may be liable to prosecution or other action.  

I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete.  

Your signature ____________________________  

Date / /
Form LA2
(click here if you want to print this form)

Valuation of shared interest in property (LA to complete)

We have received an application for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit and need to know the market value of the customer's interest in the property at this address. Please give your opinion for this property at the date(s) shown of the

Market value — Part 1

Market value of customer's share — Part 2

The deemed share is ___________ of ___________.

Actual share is ___________.

Name in BLOCK CAPITALS

Date

Invoice address

Capital Valuations, Benefit Delivery Specialist Operations Team, Room 3629
Quarry House, Quarry Hill
Leeds
Postcode LS2 7UA

Part 1 Market value (VOA to complete)

I confirm that
- no deduction has been made for any mortgage or other liability secured on the property, or for any expenses of sale.
- I have taken into account all the relevant information I have been given about the property.

Signature

Name

Date

In my opinion the market value of the above property was ___________ on ___________.

Signature

Name

Date

Phone number

VOA reference

VOA address stamp
Part 2  Market value of share (VOA to complete)

I confirm that using the information supplied I have:
- assumed the customer is a willing seller,
- considered any encumbrances,
- assumed the ownership and any encumbrance are deemed to be in equal shares in joint ownership cases, and

considered

Please tick the sections which apply:
- [ ] A rights of occupation possessed by occupants who are not owners
- [ ] B if the other owners would agree to the sale of the asset as a whole
- [ ] C if the other owners would be willing and able to buy the share
- [ ] D the occupation of the property by other owners and whether they would be willing to vacate it
- [ ] E where the other owners would not buy the share or agree to the sale of the asset as a whole or are not prepared to vacate the property
  - [ ] the attitude of the courts — whether they would order the sale of property as a whole, as a partition, or some other order
  - [ ] the length of time a purchaser may have to wait before obtaining possession of the asset, in the share
  - [ ] the potential legal costs of a buyer

NB The valuer should consider the relevant facts and not assume an order will be granted.

- [ ] F the rights of occupation of the other owners
- [ ] G planning or other restrictions on the property as specified on form LA1
- [ ] H the risks that legal owners may try to abuse their position — for example, sell the property and keep the proceeds for themselves; encumber the property with secured debts, or lease the property
- [ ] J sales of similar share interests in property, the comparables used to value the share element being
  - [ ] VOA database
  - [ ] sales information
  - [ ] land registry list
  - [ ] estate agents’ particulars
  - [ ] other — please state

- [ ] K that there is
  - [ ] no market for the share
  - [ ] a market for the share
  - [ ] VOA database
  - [ ] auditors
  - [ ] private treaty
  - [ ] other — please state

In my opinion the true market value of the
- entire property is

| £ | on | / | / |
| £ | on | / | / |
| £ | on | / | / |

- deemed share (joint ownership) after considering encumbrances
  - using the information on form LA1
  - taking into account the above factors relevant to this case, and
  - using my professional judgement to reach a balanced valuation figure

| £ | on | / | / |
| £ | on | / | / |
| £ | on | / | / |

- actual undivided share (common ownership) after considering encumbrances
  - using the information on form LA1
  - taking into account the above factors relevant to this case, and
  - using my professional judgement to reach a balanced valuation figure

| £ | on | / | / |
| £ | on | / | / |
| £ | on | / | / |

I have not reflected the costs of disposal of the customer’s interest in this valuation.

Signature

Name

Date

Phone number

VOA reference

VOA address stamp
Valuation of government securities

1 A claim received on 19 January includes information that capital held includes £2,000 in a building society account, £11,800 in 3 per cent Exchequer Gas Stock and £4,000 in 3.5 per cent War Stock. At face value the claimant appears to have over £16,000 in capital and would appear to be excluded from HB.

2 On being asked to verify stock holdings, the claimant provides the interest warrants for the Government stocks in the form of a voucher.

3 The value to be given to the stock holdings can be estimated from the Stock Exchange Prices as listed in, for example, the financial pages of The Times.

4 The claimant’s capital is therefore as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of capital</th>
<th>Face value</th>
<th>Stock price per £100 held</th>
<th>Potential disposal value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3% Exchequer Gas Stock</td>
<td>11,800</td>
<td>78.25</td>
<td>9,233.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5% War Stock</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>39.25</td>
<td>1,570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total disposal value
Both attract allowance for costs of disposal at 10%

Value of stock for HB purposes
Add building society holding

Total capital for HB calculation

Tariff income to be included in HB assessment

£35.00
Does not apply to working age claimants.
Does not apply to working age claimants.