

Case Study

Bill and Marie live in a 3 bedroom Radius property with their daughter Lucy, aged 7. They receive Housing Benefit to help pay their rent which is £100 per week. This is paid to Radius Housing on their behalf.

As they currently under occupy by one bedroom their Housing Benefit is reduced by 14%. Thus they have a £14 per week shortfall.

Bill and Marie have to pay the shortfall of £14 per week in their rent to their landlord.

What action should you take?

If you have an extra bedroom/s, you should think about how the Social Sector Size Criteria / 'Bedroom Tax' will apply to your household.

- You should consider how you will manage to pay any shortfall.
- You could also consider moving to a smaller property. Your Housing Officer can assist you to look at alternative housing options.
- If you require the extra room for care needs you should apply to the NIHE Housing Benefits Section and ask for this to be taken into account when assessing your housing costs.

Help and Support

If you are concerned about the 'Bedroom Tax' and would like further information or advice, please contact our Welfare Advice Service on Tel 0330 123 0888.

Alternatively you can get further information on our website www.radiushousing.org or visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/changes-to-housing-benefit

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HOUSING

Social Sector Size Criteria (SSSC)

Bedroom Tax



**Everyone
has a place**

What is Social Sector Size Criteria (SSSC)?

Social Sector Size Criteria (SSSC), commonly known as 'Bedroom Tax', has changed how Housing Benefit and housing costs are calculated for tenants in social housing.

Since February 2017, assistance with housing costs is based on the amount of rooms your household actually needs.

If you currently live in a house deemed too large for your needs, the amount of Housing Benefit or housing costs (under Universal Credit) you receive may have reduced.

Under the new criteria, help with your housing costs is calculated on the number of bedrooms that your household needs.

A bedroom is allocated as follows:

- Each adult couple
- Each person over 16
- Any two children of the same sex under 16
- Any two children under 10, regardless of their sex
- Any other child
- A carer who provides overnight care but does not live with you.

How does it work?

If you are deemed to have more bedrooms than required, then the amount of help you receive for your housing costs will reduce by 14% or 25% as follows:



-14%

for **one** extra bedroom



-25%

for **two or more** extra bedrooms

Circumstances that allow for an extra bedroom

If you require an extra bedroom you should request consideration for this room. An extra bedroom may be considered in the following circumstances:

- Foster care provision
- If you require an extra bedroom because you have a disability or caring needs
- If a student or member of the armed forces is away from home but will return.

Who is not affected?

A person who has reached state pension age is not affected by the SSSC / 'Bedroom tax'.

Others not affected by the SSSC include those living in:

- supported accommodation
- a houseboat, caravan or mobile home
- shared co-ownership scheme
- temporary accommodation