

Notes for your Guidance

1. The Council Tax (Reductions for Disabilities) Regulations 1992 (as amended) allow billing authorities such as Huntingdonshire District Council to make reductions where all the necessary conditions are met.

The reduction will, for properties Band B to H, be equivalent to a re-banding of the property into the band immediately below that shown in the valuation list. (eg: A qualifying property shown in the list as Band D would in effect be charged as a Band C property.) However, the list itself will not be altered.

Properties in valuation Band A may receive a reduction (with the charge after disablement reduction being calculated as 5/9ths of the Band D charge).

2. When deciding on your/this application, the Council must be satisfied:-

- A. that there is a disabled resident who needs either space for a wheelchair to be used inside the home, or a special or additional kitchen, bathroom or other room, and
- B. that this space or room is essential or of major importance to the well-being of the disabled resident because of the nature and extent of their disability.

For the purposes of the regulations, a disabled resident means a person who has their sole or main residence at that address, and who is substantially and permanently disabled (whether by illness, injury, congenital deformity or otherwise).

It will help, in less obvious cases, if you can supply a note from a doctor, or other qualified professional (such as an occupational therapist or social worker) confirming that the disabled resident needs the extra space or room described above.

Your doctor may charge you for supplying this information and you would be responsible for payment. Therefore, it would be sensible to discuss this with us on 01480 388030, in the first instance.

If for any reason you are unable to obtain such confirmation easily, then do not delay your application if you believe you are eligible for a reduction. However, we may need to ask for evidence in support of your application later on.

3. Where possible, the application must be made by the person who is liable to pay the Council Tax or by somebody able to act on their behalf.

4. The calculation of any reduction is on a daily basis and is directly related to the period of time that the disabled person is resident at the property.

You must make a new application each year. It is unlikely however, that a full application will be necessary in later years, and it may be sufficient for the Council to seek only confirmation that the circumstances have not changed since the original application.

5. If you have made changes to your property because of the disabled person's medical circumstances, please supply as much information as possible including the date that these changes were completed in the Additional Information field on the application form