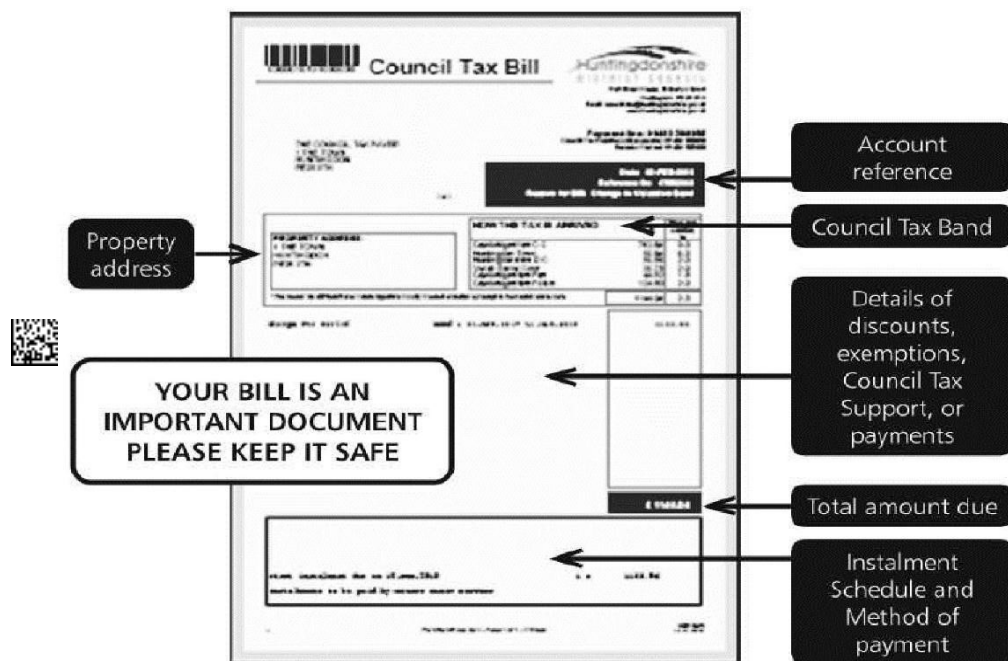


Understanding Your Council Tax Bill



Is your bill correct?

If you are no longer entitled to claim a reduction, discount or exemption, **you must let us know within 21 days, otherwise you may incur a penalty of £70.**

Your Council Tax pays for a range of services provided by the below organisations. To find out more about how the money you pay is spent, please visit:

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Find details for your **town or parish council**

- www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance-and-budget
- www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/council-tax
- www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/money/
- www.cambsfire.gov.uk/about-us
- www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/parishcontacts

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy of this information, please contact the relevant body.

Council Tax is payable on each domestic property, whether it is owned or rented, and the people that live in the property are usually liable to pay. The amount charged is dependent on the Council Tax Band of the property, which is decided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) according to the open market value **at 1st April 1991**. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands

If you think your Council Tax Band is wrong you may be able to appeal to the Valuation Office Agency, within 6 months of you becoming liable for the Council Tax. Please visit their website for more information at www.voa.gov.uk or via telephone on 03000 501 501. **You must keep paying your Council Tax instalments in the meantime.**

Broad descriptions of the available discounts and exemptions regarding Council Tax are shown below. Please see our website for more detailed information and to apply: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/ctdiscount

Discounts for occupied properties

- If you live alone, or if you live with people who do not count as adults for Council Tax purposes, you may receive a 25% discount. People who do not count for Council Tax purposes include: -

- Full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and Youth Training trainees.
- 18/19-year-olds who have just left school and where Child Benefit is still paid.
- Members of visiting forces (foreign military personnel or civilian's working for the foreign military)
- Caring for someone with a disability who is not their spouse, partner or child under 18.
- People being looked after in care homes.
- Patients permanently resident in hospital.
- People who are severely mentally impaired.
- Certain Care workers.
- People staying in certain hostels or night shelters.
- Members of religious communities.
- People in prison

Discounts for unfurnished Properties

- Properties that are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished do not qualify for a financial discount in Huntingdonshire, so the full Council Tax amount is payable.
- Unoccupied properties requiring major repair or undergoing structural alteration do not qualify for a financial discount in Huntingdonshire, so the full Council Tax amount is payable.

Exemptions for unoccupied properties

- Owned by a charity. Maximum exemption period is 6 months.
- Left unoccupied by someone who has been detained in custody.
- Previously occupied by a person now in permanent residential care.
- Left unoccupied from the death of the liable person and there is no other owner of the property. Maximum exemption period is 6 months after grant of Probate. Subject to certain conditions - please contact us for more information.
- Empty because occupation is prohibited by law (e.g., Prohibition Notice served).
- Reserved for occupation by a minister of religion.
- Previously the home of someone who has moved to another residence (not residential home or hospital) to receive personal care.
- Left empty by someone, whilst providing personal care to somebody elsewhere.
- Owned by a student and was last occupied by a student.
- A mortgagee is in possession (e.g. repossessed property).
- The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee.
- A vacant caravan pitch or boat mooring.

Exemptions for occupied properties

- Which are student halls of residence.
- Where all the residents are students.
- Which is armed forces accommodation.
- Where at least one person liable to pay council tax is a member of a visiting force (i.e. foreign military personnel, or civilian component).
- Where all residents are below 18 years old.
- Where all the residents are severely mentally impaired.
- Where at least one liable person is a foreign diplomat.

Disabled Band Reduction

If you are disabled, or have a disabled person living with you, and special adaptations have been made to your home, you may be entitled to pay on a reduced Council Tax Band equivalent.

Annexes

- Exempt if occupied by elderly or disabled relatives of the Council Tax payer who is responsible for the main property.
- 50% discount where the occupants are related to the Council Tax payer of the main property, other than elderly or disabled.
- Exempt if unoccupied and cannot be rented out due to planning restrictions.
- 50% discount when an Annexe is left unoccupied, provided the Annexe is used as part of the main property.

If none of the above applies, then the Annexe will be treated in the same way as any other property.

Long Term unoccupied and unfurnished properties

Under a local scheme set by Huntingdonshire District Council in 2021, there is no discount for empty properties or second homes. An Empty Homes Premium applies to properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than 2 years, as follows:

Empty Period	Extra Charge
2-5 years	100%
5-10 years	200%
10 years +	300%

Discretionary Discount

In exceptional circumstances, the Council has discretion to reduce the amount of Council Tax for situations not covered by national discounts and exemptions. This can be used for individual cases, or locally determined classes of property.

Council Tax Support Scheme – residents of pension age. This scheme is set by the Government, and residents that are of pension age may be able to receive up to 100% Council Tax Reduction. Full details can be found on our website.

Council Tax Support Scheme – residents of working age

From April 2024, the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme uses income bands to determine the amount of discount for those of working age. The level of discount that can be paid will depend on the weekly net household income as follows:

Band	Council Tax Discount	Single Person (£)	Couple with no children (£)	Couple or Lone Parent with one child (£)	Couple or Lone Parent with two children (£)	Couple or Lone Parent with three children (£)	Couple or Lone Parent with four or more children (£)
1	100%	less than 91.01	less than 143.01	less than 209.01	less than 276.01	less than 342.01	less than 409.01
2	75%	91.01 – 141.00	143.01 – 193.00	209.01 - 259.00	276.01 – 326.00	342.01 – 392.00	409.01 – 459.00
3	50%	141.01 – 191.00	193.01 – 243.00	259.01 – 309.00	326.01 – 376.00	392.01 – 442.00	459.01 – 509.00
4	25%	191.01 – 241.00	243.01 – 293.00	309.01 – 359.00	376.01 – 426.00	442.01 – 492.00	509.01 – 559.00
5	0%	241.01 or more	293.01 or more	395.01 or more	426.01 or more	492.01 or more	559.01 or more

For further information, details of how net income is calculated and how to apply, please visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport

Change in your circumstances? You must let us know.

If you are in receipt of any discount, exemption or Council Tax Support, you must tell us about any changes in your circumstances as this may affect your entitlement.

If you are in receipt of Council Tax Support you must tell us about any changes to your income or household, or if you have savings of £10,000 or more.

All changes must be reported within 21 days, or you may be issued with a penalty charge.

Appeals

If you disagree with our decision regarding a discount, exemption or reduction, or if you don't think that you are the person liable to pay the charge, please contact us within 2 months. If we still consider that our decision is correct, you can then appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service - www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk

You must continue to pay your Council Tax instalments whilst your appeal is being considered.

More information about Council Tax can be found at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-tax or at www.gov.uk/council-tax

Registering for Council Tax does not register you to vote. Sign up at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote