

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COUNCIL OFFICES  
SOUTH STREET  
ROCHFORD  
SS4 1BW

Tel 01702 546366

Opening times for telephone enquiries:  
Monday -Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm  
Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

## Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit



## Backdating

If you have a good reason  
for not claiming earlier,  
you can ask us to consider  
backdating your benefits

**Rochford District Council**

This leaflet explains about backdating benefit. You can get more information from our Benefits Office at:

Council Offices  
South Street  
Rochford  
SS4 1BW  
Phone: 01702 546366  
When phoning ask for Benefits

The Benefits Office is open  
Monday – Thursday from 8.30am – 5pm  
Friday from 8.30am – 4.30pm  
E-mail: [housing.benefit@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:housing.benefit@rochford.gov.uk)  
Fax: 01702 318129

### **When will my benefit start?**

Your benefit will normally start from the Monday after we receive your claim. If you receive either Income Support (IS) or income - based Jobseeker's Allowance (IB-JSA), and you make a claim within four weeks of your application for IS or IB-JSA, your benefit claim will normally start on the Monday after IS or IB-JSA is awarded.

### **Can you backdate my benefit?**

We will not usually backdate benefit. However, if you can show that you had good reasons for not claiming benefit earlier, we may backdate your benefit. (We can only backdate benefit for up to 52 weeks from the date we receive your claim for backdating.)

### **What do you consider to be 'good reasons'?**

Unfortunately, the Benefit regulations do not say what are, and what are not, 'good reasons' so we must consider each case individually. Before we can backdate benefit, we must be satisfied that anyone else of the same age, and with the same health and experience as you would probably also not have been able to claim.

Not knowing that you could claim benefit earlier will not normally be considered as a 'good reason'. However, not claiming because you were in hospital, had severe health problems, or a close relative had died could be considered as 'good reasons'. The same 'good reasons' must apply for the whole period you're asking us to backdate your benefit for.

### **How do I apply for backdating?**

If you want to ask us to backdate your Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, you should write to us, explaining why you did not claim benefit earlier. You must also enclose any relevant proof, for example, a doctor's letter.

# Application for you to backdate my benefit



Rochford District  
Council

My full name

My benefit reference  
number

The address I want the  
backdated benefit for

The date my benefit  
started

I want you to consider  
backdating my benefit  
from

Please consider my application for backdating benefit. I have good reasons for not applying for benefit earlier. Here are the reasons.

Continued over the page.

**Declaration.** As far as I know the details on this form are a true picture of my circumstances. I understand that if I give incorrect information or withhold information, I may have to repay any payments I have received.

Signature

Date

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Rochford District Council

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My benefit reference number

The address I want the backdated benefit for

The date my benefit started

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Please consider my application for backdating benefit. I have good reasons for not applying for benefit earlier. Here are the reasons.

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