

## Council Tax Discount Disregard Application Form

As part of the Council Tax scheme the amount of Council Tax payable may be reduced where a person(s) living in a property qualifies for a Discount Disregard.

A full list of the Discount Disregard classes is detailed overleaf along with a brief description of each class. Please note that this list is intended for guidance only and is not a full extract of the Council Tax legislation.

The amount of Discount will be either 25% or 50% depending upon the number of adults living in a property and the class of Disregard. If 2 or more adults are living in a property and they are not disregarded then no Discount will apply.

To make an application please complete the details below. Upon receipt of your completed application you may be asked to provide further information. Should this be necessary a Gateshead Council Officer will contact you.

**Name**  **Account no.**

**Address**  (this is shown on your Council Tax bill)

1. List all residents in property aged over 16 years:

Name	Date of Birth	Date moved in	Disregard Category (see overleaf)

2. Date from which you would like to apply for a discount:

**I confirm that the information I have supplied is accurate and true.**

Signature  Date

Print name  Telephone

E-mail

**Please return completed form to: - Gateshead Council, Council Tax Dept, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH**

## **Categories of Discount Disregards for Council Tax Purposes**

**1) Person in Detention.** This class includes people who are detained by order of a Court, whether they are in prison, in a hospital, or in any other place. This Discount Disregard for people in detention means they do not count for Council Tax whilst they are detained.

**2) The Severely Mentally Impaired.** A person is disregarded for Council Tax if he or she is severely mentally impaired. To qualify for a disregard the severely mentally impaired person must be entitled to a qualifying State Benefit **and** a medical practitioner must confirm their severe mental impairment. For the purpose of this application a person is severely mentally impaired if they have a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning (however caused) which appears to be permanent.

**3) Persons in Respect of whom Child Benefit is Payable.** Any person aged under 18 is not counted for Council Tax purposes. This class applies where a person has reached the age of 18 but Child Benefit is still payable for them.

**4) School and College Leavers.** Any person aged 18 or 19 years who leaves School or College between the 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> October in any year after studying a qualifying course of education (for example A levels) is not counted for Council Tax purposes.

**5) Students.** Students are not counted for Council Tax purposes. The term "Student" covers:

- i) A Foreign Language Assistant registered with The British Council;
- ii) Any person on a full-time course of education at a prescribed educational establishment;
- iii) A person aged under 20 undertaking a qualifying course of education

**6) Non-British Spouses of Student.** A person who is the spouse or dependant of a student is not counted for Council Tax purposes if they are not a British Citizen and are prevented from taking paid employment or from claiming Benefits whilst in the UK.

**7) Student Nurses.** Any person who is a Student Nurse is not counted for Council Tax purposes. A Student Nurse studying full-time at a College or University will qualify under Class 5 above. If not an academic student, the Student Nurse must be following a course leading to registration under the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979.

**8) Apprentices.** A person will be disregarded as an Apprentice provided that they are employed for the purposes of learning a trade, business or profession and undertaking a training programme leading to a qualification approved by the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority. The disregard only applies should the Apprentice be employed at a salary of no more than **£195.00** per week. **Please note that should an Apprentice live alone or all residents are Apprentices the level of discount will be 50% as all residents are disregarded.**

**9) Youth Training Trainees.** A person will be disregarded as a Youth Training Trainee should they be under 25 years of age and undertaking training funded by the Learning Skills Council for England. **Please note that should a Youth Training Trainee live alone or all residents are Youth Training Trainees the level of discount will be 50% as all residents are disregarded.**

**10) Hospital Patients.** A person who has their main home in a NHS Hospital is not counted for Council Tax purposes. This class only applies to Hospitals which have a Valuation Band and therefore does not apply to private dwellings.

**11) Patients in Homes.** A person who has their main home in a residential care home, nursing home, mental nursing home or hostel in England or Wales is not counted for Council Tax purposes. This class only applies to homes or hostels which have a Valuation Band and therefore does not apply to private dwellings.

**12) Care Workers.** Care Workers are not counted for Council Tax purposes. A person may be classed as a Care Worker if they meet the conditions set in Part 1 or Part 2 below:

**Part 1** – a carer must be providing care through a connection with Crown / charity / local authority and be employed for at least 24 hours a week and paid no more than £44 per week and resident where the care is given or in premises provided for the care.

**Part 2** – a carer must be providing care for a person who is entitled to certain state benefits and be living in the same property as the person receiving care and be providing care for at least 35 hours per week and is not the spouse/partner of the person receiving care or the parent should the person receiving care be under 18 years of age.

**13) Residents of Hostels for the Homeless or Night Shelters.** Any person living in accommodation for the homeless is not counted for Council Tax purposes. The accommodation must be used essentially for persons of no fixed abode.

**14) Members and Dependants of International Headquarters and Defence Organisations.** Any person (and dependant) who is a member of an International Headquarters or a Defence Organisation is not counted for Council Tax purposes.

**15) Members of Religious Communities.** This class covers members of religious communities where the principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, education, relief of suffering or any combination of these. To qualify each person must have no income or capital of their own.

**16) Members and Dependants of Visiting Forces.** A person is not counted for Council Tax purposes should they be a member of a Visiting Force or a member of a civilian component of a Visiting Force.

**17) Persons with Diplomatic Privilege or Immunity.** This class applies to any person with diplomatic privileges and immunities.

**(Please note that any discount will only be awarded on the basis of your current circumstances. You will be required to inform the Council within 21 days should there be a change. If you fail to report any such change this could result in a fixed penalty being imposed on you in addition to the recovery of any overpaid discount).**