

# Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support – Request for Backdating

Name	<input type="text"/>	Case Ref.	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>	Date Issued	<input type="text"/>
		Date Received	<input type="text"/>

**IMPORTANT** – Please read the notes over the page before you fill in this form

1. What date do you want your claim to be backdated to?
2. Please give your reasons for your request for backdating in the box below (*please continue of a separate sheet if necessary and attach it to this form*)


In accordance with General Data Protection Regulations 2018, Gateshead Council will use any personal data to process your application. We may also share this data with other council services or public organisations if required by law to do so. Your personal data will only be used in respect of your claim and not for marketing purposes or passed to third parties. To read how we will use your information, please view our full privacy notice, at [www.gateshead.gov.uk/data-protection](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/data-protection).

Your Signature	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
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### Contact Details

Return the completed form to:-	Benefits Service, Digital & Resources, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH
Enquiries by telephone on:-	0191 433 4646
Enquiries by email on:-	<a href="mailto:benefitenquiries@gateshead.gov.uk">benefitenquiries@gateshead.gov.uk</a>

## Claiming Backdated Benefit

<b>Who can claim?</b>	Anyone who is in the process of submitting a claim (or in certain situations if you are already in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support).
<b>Under what circumstances can you claim?</b>	Normally your claim will be paid from the Monday following the first point of contact. However, if you have good reason (described in the scheme as “good cause”) which is acceptable for you having delayed making your claim, then the Council can backdate.
<b>What counts as “Good Cause”?</b>	<p>You must show that your circumstances are exceptional and you had <b>continuous</b> good cause during the period that you want your claim to be backdated. The Council will only be able to backdate if you can do this. Examples are :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You were prevented from making a claim and you had no-one else to act on your behalf. For example because you were in hospital.</li><li>• You have been given incorrect advice from someone whose advice it would be reasonable to accept. For example from a Solicitor or an Accountant – but they would need to verify this.</li><li>• You have learning or language difficulties and have no-one who could assist you.</li></ul>
<b>What sort of thing doesn't count as `Good Cause`?</b>	<p>Generally you will be expected to make reasonable enquiries at the right time about claiming housing benefit and Council Tax support. This would normally involve asking at the Council's Benefits Section or the local office of the Department of Work and Pensions. Here are some examples of where you won't be successful :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You say that you didn't know about the scheme – ignorance of the law on its own is not normally good cause.</li><li>• You obtained advice from a non-official source such as a friend or relative</li></ul>
<b>How long can your claim be backdated?</b>	<p><u>Working age claimants</u> – Housing Benefit / Council Tax Support can be paid for up to 1 month before you made your claim for backdating, provided you have <b>continuous</b> good cause and have entitlement throughout the whole period.</p> <p><u>Pensioners</u> – Housing Benefit / Council Tax Support can be paid for up to 3 months.</p>
<b>Can you seek help to submit your claim?</b>	Yes the Council will be glad to assist. Please contact the Benefits section at the address shown over the page or if you would prefer to seek independent advice, then you should contact someone like the Citizens Advice Bureau or Law Centre.
<b>What happens next?</b>	The Council will consider your claim and the reasons that you have given for it. You will then be formally notified once a decision is reached.

**IMPORTANT – Please submit any supporting documents to support your claim**