

Service Data**1. Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)**

Funding from Welsh Government has been allocated to fill the 10% shortfall in Council Tax Reduction for 2014/15, this support has continued for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme expenditure and budget are as follows:

- 2013/14 CTRS Budget £9,437,000 Expenditure £9,117,454
- 2014/15 CTRS Budget £9,742,000 Expenditure £9,025,074
- 2015/16 CTRS Budget £9,770,000 Expenditure £9,117,658
- 2016/17 CTRS Budget £9,850,000 Expenditure £9,416,617

Council Tax collection in-year has been maintained

- 2013/14 97.5%
- 2014/15 97.9%
- 2015/16 97.9%

Since 2013/14 the Council has resolved to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes in accordance with the prevailing statutory instruments. [Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations (the Prescribed Requirements Regulations) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations]

The resolution reconfirmed that the national scheme be adopted with the following discretions –

- That the Council should continue to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of 4 weeks.
- That the Council should continue to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction.
- That the Council should continue to allow Backdated Reductions for a period up to 26 weeks.

2. Social Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)

The social size criteria affects working age claimants where they are under-occupying their home and only affects Housing Association and Council tenants. There will be a reduction in Housing Benefit of 14% for under-occupation of one spare bedroom and 25% for under-occupation of two or more spare bedrooms.

Number of people who have had Housing Benefit reduced:

April 2013	June 2014	December 2014	September 2015	June 2016
1,102	944	907	847	809

Since its introduction in April 2013 there has been a reduction of **293** in the number of people affected.

Housing Benefit Reduction

	June 2014	December 2014	September 2015	June 2016
14% reduction	795	770	716	675
25% reduction	149	137	131	134
Total affected	944	907	847	809

Bedroom Tax broken down into landlord types

LANDLORD	14%	25%	TOTAL
Council	375	94	469
Newydd	182	22	204
Hafod	54	14	68
United Welsh	25	2	27
Wales & West	33	2	35
Cando	3	0	3
Gwalia	3	0	3
TOTAL	675	134	809

3. Benefit Cap

If a household's benefit entitlement is larger than the Benefit Cap the level of Housing Benefit payments will be reduced by the amount that is larger than the capped level. This will only affect working age claimants where the amount of benefit will be capped at £500 per week for a couple or lone parent with children. The size of a claimant's household will affect the number claims subject to the cap.

July 2013	June 2014	December 2014	September 2015	June 2016
54	41	44	41	34

4. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

The DHP allocation from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for 2016/17 is £233,600 and the Authority itself has allocated a further £222,000, this gives an overall limit of £455,600.

	Received	Granted	Refused	Waiting Further Information	Waiting To Be Processed
June 2016	296	202	67	14	13

	DHP Allocation	Paid	Committed	Remaining	Council DHP Contribution
June 2016	£233,600.00	£23,426.47	£41,043.31	£169,130.22	£222,000

The 202 successful DHP awards were granted for the following reasons:

Reason	Number of awards	Amount Paid	Number of awards	Amount Paid
	Sept 2015	Sept 2015	June 2016	June 2016
Social Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)	170	£40,742	95	£8,572
Local Housing Allowance restriction	79	£29,924	57	£8,126
Combination of reforms	2	£1,262	1	£238
Other	90	£27,398	49	£6,490
TOTAL	341	£99,326	202	£23,426

Purpose of DHP Reasons why payments have been made:	Number of awards	Number of awards	Number of awards
	December 2014	August 2015	June 2016
To help secure and move to alternative accommodation i.e. rent deposit	79	63	50
To help with short-term rent costs to secure moves	59	38	34
To help with short-term rent costs while the claimants seeks employment	53	19	10
To help with ongoing rental costs for Foster Carers	0	0	2
To help with on-going rental costs for disabled people	31	23	12
To help with on-going rent costs	257	198	94
Total	479	341	202

5. Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is a flat rate allowance based on the size of household and the area in which a person lives for tenants in privately rented accommodation which came into effect from April 2008.

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Shared Accommodation £51.78	Shared Accommodation £52.30	Shared Accommodation £52.30
One bedroom £97.81	One bedroom £97.81	One bedroom £92.05
Two bedroom £118.52	Two bedroom £115.07	Two bedroom £115.07
Three bedroom £127.00	Three bedroom £128.27	Three bedroom £128.27
Four bedroom £161.10	Four bedroom £160.00	Four bedroom £159.95

6. Universal Credit Uptake (UC)

As at June 2016 the data is as follows:

- Universal Credit was introduced to the Vale of Glamorgan on 22nd February 2016
- Within the Vale of Glamorgan, 9 people have come off Housing Benefit and claimed Housing related costs through Universal Credit.
- 1 Personal Budgeting referral has been received.