



# HILLINGDON

LONDON

## **DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE FOR Housing Benefit & Council Tax Reduction**

### **The Benefits Team uses your personal data for these reasons:**

- Ensuring you receive the correct amount of Housing Benefit,
- Ensuring that you receive the correct amount of Council Tax Reduction,
- Reviewing Council Tax Benefit,
- Making decisions about Discretionary Housing Payment,
- Recovering some overpaid Housing Benefit, and
- Preventing and detecting fraud and error within the above.

### **Why are we providing this Notice to you**

The Council, in its capacity of Data Controller, holds certain information about you ["personal data"] which it needs to process for the purpose of providing the following service of administering decisions about Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Council Tax Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment. This Notice is designed to give you information about the personal data we hold about you, how we will use it, your rights in relation to it and the safeguards that are in place to protect it.

Further information is contained in the Council's Generic Data Protection Privacy Notice which can be found at: [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/privacy)

### **What personal data do we hold**

The types of data we hold and process will typically include:

Your name and the names of all other residents of your address, and the relationships of the other occupants to you. This includes children.

Your address.

Your gender and that of other residents of your address.

The dates of birth for you and other residents in your address.

The National Insurance number of you, your partner(s) (if any) and sometimes other residents of your address.

Details and evidence of your income, and the income of other residents of your address.

Details and evidence of your capital, and the capital of other residents of your address.

Details and evidence of your rent and the rent of other members of your address.

Details and evidence of rental deposit.

Details of the applicant's Council Tax liability.

Other information which is relevant to your claim(s).

Contact information including telephone numbers and email addresses.

Details of the applicant for Housing Benefit and/or Discretionary Housing Payments' landlord.

Sometimes we hold information on marital status, ethnicity, nationality, and health/ personal circumstances. Sometimes wageslips supplied to us contain details of Trades Union membership.

Records of visits to the benefits office.

We will hold information on your landlord, this will or may include their name, address, bank account details and contact details.

If you have an appointee then we will hold details of them.

We obtain some of this data directly from you and we may also obtain it from other sources.

Other sources of data typically includes:

Your landlord.

The Department of Work and Pensions. Contact: your Jobcentre Plus Office or [www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-request-for-personal-information](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-request-for-personal-information).

HM Revenue and Customs. Contact: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Contact: [advice.dpa@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:advice.dpa@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) or write to The Data Protection Officer, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU.

HM Land Registry. Contact: [dataprotection@landregistry.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@landregistry.gov.uk) or Trafalgar House, 1 Bedford Park, Croydon, CR0 2AQ

Your appointee or representative.

Citizens Advice give us very limited Information on Universal Credit applicants who they have assisted with budgeting or digital support.

### **What is our purpose for processing your personal data**

To process applications for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Discretionary Housing Payment.

To change awards of Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Council Tax Benefit, and Discretionary Housing Payment.

To recover overpaid Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment.

If we intend to process your personal data for a purpose other than that for which the personal data was collected, we shall provide you details of that other purpose before we start processing your data.

### **What is the legal basis for our use of your personal data**

One or more of the following bases can apply:

- We have obtained your freely given and specific consent and have informed you that you have the right to withdraw it at any time.
- We need it in order to perform a contract between the Council and yourself.
- We need it to comply with a legal obligation.

- We need to protect the vital interests of a person.
- We need it to perform a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority.
- We feel it is necessary for purposes of legitimate interests pursued either by us or a third party.

### **What we do if your personal data is sensitive**

We will only process your sensitive personal data with your consent, unless we can lawfully process it for another reason permitted by law. We will notify you if it is sensitive and as with non-sensitive personal data, you have the right to withdraw your consent to processing at any time by letting us know. Sensitive data is data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade-union membership, genetic and biometric data, data concerning health or data concerning a natural persons sex life or sexual orientation.

### **For how long will we hold your personal data**

We will only keep your personal data for as long as we need to in order to fulfil the purpose[s] for which it is collected and for so long afterwards as we consider it may be required to deal with any questions or complaints about the service which we provide to you, unless we elect to retain your data for a longer period in order to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations..

### **Organisations that we may share your personal data with**

We use a company Liberata to process some data including answering telephone calls, and scanning documents.

We share information with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) including data-matching and the Single Fraud Investigation Service. Two officers from the DWP are being given access to the Housing Benefit Computer systems to gather information for the investigation of possible fraud, the DWP have a legal right to this data.

We share information with Judicial bodies including HMCTS and the Valuation Tribunal.

We share limited data with the landlords of claimants. Some of this is done via the Landlord Portal. The landlord portal contains information for landlords to correctly allocate payments of Housing Benefit, and for the landlord to receive limited information regarding awards of Housing Benefit as required by law.

We sometimes share data internally such as with homelessness officers and counter fraud.

We sometimes share information with appointees and representatives.

We may share information with other Councils as permitted by law, or with your permission.

External auditors.

Decision notices are printed by an external printing company.

The Royal Mail delivers post for our service.

We may make a referral to Citizens Advice where a Universal Claimant needs assistance with budgeting or digital support.

The Rent Service.

It may be shared with The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

It may be shared with the Cabinet Office in regards to the National Fraud Initiative.

### **Internal Sharing of data**

We may share some of your data with other services within the London Borough of Hillingdon. Common examples include:

Corporate Recovery

Council Tax

Homeless Prevention Service

Tenancy Services

Adult Social Care

Client Financial Affairs

Complaints and Enquiries

Internal Audit

Counter Fraud

The Food Safety Team

The Troubles Families Programme

Licensing and Regulatory Services

Each of these services (where required) has a privacy notice detailing the legal basis on which they processing the data.

The Business Improvement Delivery (BID) team. This BID team works across departments and teams with the aim of: removing red tape to simplify how we work, putting our residents at the heart of everything we do, recognising what residents value about our services and focusing on getting things right first time.

### **What happens if your personal data is subject to automated decision-making including profiling**

We sometimes use automated processing in respect of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction. This mainly relates information received from the Department of Work and Pensions such as uprated pensions, benefits and Tax Credits. This is not used for Discretionary Housing Payment

### **Your rights**

You have a right to access and obtain a copy of the personal data that we hold about you and to ask us to correct your personal data if there are any errors or it is out of date. In some circumstances, you may also have a right to ask us to restrict processing of your data until any errors are corrected, to object to processing or to transfer or [in very limited circumstances] erase your personal data. You can obtain further information about these rights from the Information Commissioner's Office at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or via their telephone helpline [0303 123 1113].

If you wish to exercise any of these rights, please contact The Benefits Team (contact details below). You also have the right to lodge a complaint in relation to this Privacy Notice or our processing activities with the Information Commissioner's Office, which you can do through the website above or their telephone helpline.

We may from time to time ask for further information from you. If you do not provide such information, or ask that the personal data we already hold is deleted or restricted, this may affect the service that we provide to you.

## **Updates**

We may update this notice periodically. Where we do this, we will inform you of the changes and the date on which the changes take effect.

## **Contacting us**

Please contact [benefits@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@hillington.gov.uk) for further information

Benefits  
PO Box 1120  
1 Market Street  
Nelson  
Lancs  
BB9 7LJ

## **Statutory Data Protection Officer**

You may also contact our data protection officer for further information:

Raj Alagh, Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer  
Data Protection Officer  
Civic Centre  
High Street  
Uxbridge  
UB8 1UW  
E-mail: [ralagh@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:ralagh@hillington.gov.uk) Telephone: 01895 250617