



# Wigan Council's Housing Benefit War Pension Disregard Policy (Modified Scheme)

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| Document Control     |  |                            |
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| Purpose              | To outline the council's policy regarding the treatment of income claimants receive under the War Disablement Pension scheme / War Widows/Widowers and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, in respect of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims. |                            |
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## Introduction

The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 make provision for the first £10.00 of income from War Disablement Pension scheme, War Widows or Widowers Pension or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to be disregarded in any benefit assessment. The cost of this disregard is fully paid to the Council by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Social Security Administration Act 1992 gives the Council discretion to disregard any amount it chooses in addition to the statutory provision in accordance with its local scheme. The council has decided to use this provision and will fully disregard 100% of income which claimants receive under the War Disablement Pension scheme / War Widows/Widowers and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

## Objectives of this Policy

The continued full 100% disregard of permitted incomes is intended to support those members of the armed forces who have been disabled during service, or widows, widowers or surviving partner of those who died in the service of their country. They will not be penalised financially in the calculation of Housing Benefit.

This will also retain alignment of the treatment of these incomes between the Housing Benefit scheme and the Council Tax Reduction scheme.

## Statutory Disregard

A statutory disregard of £10.00 is given from the specified war pensioner income under the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 and the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations 2006.

The cost of this disregard is met in full by Department for Work and Pensions through Housing Benefit subsidy.

The statutory disregard applies to the following incomes:

- a) War Disablement Pension
- b) War Widows or War Widowers pension
- c) Guaranteed Income Payments under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme payments

- d) Service Attributable Pension injury or illness attributable to service on or before April 1975
- e) Any comparable payment paid by Government of a country outside Great Britain
- f) A pension paid under the law of the Federal Republic of Germany or Austria to victims of National Socialist Persecution

The regulations do not include pre-1973 War Widow's Special Payments which are already disregarded in full.

## Policy

When assessing entitlement to Housing Benefit the council will enhance these provisions by fully disregarding the remaining War Widows/War Disablement Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme award which already attract the £10 statutory disregard.