



Northumberland

County Council

REVENUES AND BENEFIT SERVICE

HOUSING BENEFIT

WAR PENSION AND ARMED FORCES COMPENSATION DISREGARD POLICY

Introduction

1. The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 make provision for the first £10.00 of income from War Widows (Widowers)/War Disablement Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to be disregarded in any benefit assessment. The cost of this disregard is fully reimbursed to the Council.
2. The Social Security Administration Act 1992 gives the Council discretion to disregard any amount it chooses in addition to the statutory provision. Since 2009/10 the Council has taken advantage of this provision and fully disregarded income claimants receive from the War Widows (Widowers)/War Disablement Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Schemes.

Policy Aims

3. The policy aims to:
 - Ensure income from the schemes is treated consistently when assessing entitlement to housing benefit;
 - Ensure that everyone gets fair treatment and equal opportunity;
 - Promote a transparent and simple process that is easily understood; and
 - Provide staff with guidance for making reasonable, fair and consistent decisions.

Policy

4. The Council will fully disregard income from War Widows (Widowers)/War Disablement Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme when assessing entitlement to Housing Benefit.