

PRIME MINISTER

COMMUNITY CHARGE BENEFITS

You were concerned whether enough was being done to draw people's attention to the need to claim community charge benefit/transitional relief before 27 May. DSS have in fact mounted a half million pound campaign and throughout this week have been running full page advertisements in the national dailys and have sent packs to all the "free" local newspapers due to come out during the course of this week. I attach a copy of the advertisement.

I think it is a good one. Certainly, until I saw it I had not realised that the significance of 27 May was only that it was the earliest cut off date for back-dating a claim. (The cut off is, of course, 56 days after local authorities sent out their bills and many will not have done so on 1 April). And that, even if people miss that 56 day deadline, they could still get benefit for the remainder of the year; all they lose is backdating.

27 May is, of course, a Sunday but DSS have confirmed, as expected, that any claims which have been delivered by opening time on Tuesday will qualify for full backdating.

DM

DOMINIC MORRIS

25 May 1990

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(slh)

The design of the packs is not good. It should be

CLAIM BY

27 May

Too many words!

*to get full benefit.
CALL in (boxed type)*

Help with paying the Community Charge

By
~~PUT IN A CLAIM FOR
COMMUNITY CHARGE BENEFIT BEFORE 27 MAY
AND YOU COULD GET IT BACKDATED TO 1 APRIL~~

to get full benefit

By now, you should have your Community Charge bill.

You may be able to get some help with paying your bill – a rebate of up to 80 pence in every pound.

Obviously, this will depend on your personal circumstances, your income, your savings and how much the Community Charge is in your area.

But don't be put off claiming. You don't have to be getting any other social security benefits to get Community Charge Benefit.

You don't have to be paying rent. People who own their own home, or who live in someone else's home, can still get this benefit.

And it makes no difference whether or not you are working.

For example, many families with children who take home £150 a week or even more will be able to get benefit. And many pensioner couples will get benefit with an income of £130 a week or even more.

So don't miss out. If you think you might possibly be entitled to benefit, and you haven't already applied, do it now. Not everyone will qualify but you can't lose by claiming.

Ask your local council for a claim form now. Or, if you're unable to call in to their offices personally, you can always ask a friend to do so on your behalf. Alternatively, 'phone or write to your local council offices for a claim form at once.



You've nothing to lose by claiming and you may well gain.

**Remember –
return your claim form
by 27 May**

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

This announcement does not apply to Scotland; this backdating provision applied in Scotland after 1 April 1989.