

HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities often require more space or an extra room in their homes to cater for their special needs. There is a scheme to ensure that the council tax bills for such properties (including residential institutions) are not increased as a result.

This scheme may apply if any resident (including a child) is substantially and permanently disabled, and one of the following is a feature of the property:

- * a **ROOM** (not a bathroom, kitchen or lavatory) which is mainly used by and is needed to meet the special needs of a disabled person
- * an **ADDITIONAL BATHROOM OR KITCHEN** which is required to meet the needs of the disabled person
- * sufficient space to permit the **USE OF A WHEELCHAIR INDOORS.**

To qualify, any such feature must be:

- * **mainly** used by the disabled person, and
- * **essential or of major importance for meeting his/her special needs.**

In deciding whether a reduction should be granted, I will have to consider whether **without** the relevant features:

- * the disabled person would find it **physically impossible** or **extremely difficult** to live in the property
- * his/her **health would suffer**, or the **disability would be likely to become more severe.**

Because of the above conditions, most of the reductions granted will be in respect of a PHYSICAL disability.

- * Date of claim – you should enter the date from which the above conditions were met, e.g. the date from when a wheelchair was first used in the property.

Where an application is successful, in most cases your bill will be based on the band immediately below that allocated to the property by the Valuation Office Agency. However, **since the 1st April 2000**, properties in Band A are included in this scheme and in these cases the reduction will be 1/6th of the council tax for that band. If an application is refused and after reading these notes you cannot understand why, you may appeal to me in writing stating that you disagree with the decision.

It may be necessary for Council officers to call at the property to verify the claim. They will always carry suitable identification.