

The level of your total savings and investments goes over £16,000 or drops below £6,000.

**For more information about changes in your circumstances please read leaflet 8 (Changes in circumstance)**

### What you can do if you don't agree with our decision

If you don't agree with our decision you can ask us to look at it again. If you want to dispute the decision you must do this in writing giving the reasons why you think it is wrong. You must do this within one calendar month of the date of our decision letter to you. **For more information on making an appeal please read leaflet 22 (Disputes and appeals)**

### Useful numbers

Age Concern (Swindon)	01793 692166
Citizens Advice Bureau	0845 0505155
Community Legal Service Direct	08453 454345
The Harbour Project	01793 490876
Jobcentre Plus	0845 6060234
Millen Advice Point	01793 480606
Parks Advice Point	01793 487934
The Pension Service	0845 6060265
Statton Advice Point	01793 823472
Swindon Racial Equality Council	01793 528545
West Swindon Advice Point	01793 871303
Wiltshire Law Centre	01793 486926

#### Fraud Hotline

“Do you know someone who is falsely claiming benefit” Don't let them get away with it. Ring the Fraud Hotline on **01793 464690**

### Other information leaflets available

- 1 *Who can claim and how (People over 60)*
- 2 *Who can claim and how (People under 60)*
- 3 *Under 25's/Young People*
- 4 *Lone parents*
- 5 *Students*
- 6 *People from abroad*
- 7 *Working and claiming*
- 8 *Changes in circumstance*
- 9 *Overpayments*
- 10 *Rents and charges*
- 11 *Pre Tenancy Determinations*
- 12 *Non-dependants*
- 13 *Absence from home*
- 14 *Claiming benefit on two homes*
- 15 *Backdating*
- 16 *Discretionary Housing Payments*
- 17 *Second Adult Rebate*
- 18 *Customer service and home visits*
- 19 *Child Care Costs*
- 20 *Self-Employed*
- 21 *Information for landlords*
- 22 *Disputes and appeals*
- 24 *Counter Fraud*
- 25 *Verification of documents*
- 26 *Dealing with Bereavements*

If you would like to receive this information in another language or in another format such as large print, Braille or on audio tape, please contact Customer Services on 01793 463725 for further information.

## Savings and investments

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Housing Benefit

Council Tax

Second Adult Rebate

Rent

Council Tax Benefit

Pension Credits

If you have capital or savings, you can still claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. If either you or your partner has any savings or capital totalling less than £6,000 it will not be taken into account when we calculate your entitlement.

### What counts as savings or capital?

As a general rule when we talk about savings or capital we mean any money you have in a Bank (including a current account), a Building Society, Premium Bonds, National Savings certificates, ISA's, property (unless it is the property you live in), land, shares, in fact any money you have invested or hold for whatever purpose.

If you are not sure if money you have does count as either savings or capital, tell us about it anyway and we will advise you.

### Is there an upper savings and capital limit?

If the total value of you and your partner's (if you have one) savings or capital is more than £16,000, you will not be eligible for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, unless you receive the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit. You can find out more about Pension Credit at [www.thepensionservice.gov.uk](http://www.thepensionservice.gov.uk)

### The £6,000 savings and capital limit for people under 60

If you and your partner (if you have one)

are under 60 and you jointly have savings and capital of £6,000 or more the value of your savings and capital will be used as something called "tariff income". This means that for every £250 (or part of £250 you have) we will add another £1 to any other income you have.

For example if you have £8,250 we would not count the first £6,000 and the remaining £2,250 would count as £9 income ( $£2,250 \div £250 = £9$ )

### The £6,000 savings and capital limit for people over 60

If you and your partner (if you have one) are over 60 and you jointly have savings and capital of £6,000 or more the value of your savings and capital will be used as something called "tariff income". This means that for every £500 (or part of £500 you have) we will add another £1 to any other income you have.

For example if you have £8,500 we would not count the first £6,000 and the remaining £2,500 would count as £5 income ( $£2,500 \div £500 = £5$ )

### What happens if you spend your savings or capital when claiming benefit?

If you have to spend some of your savings on necessary expenses we may be able to re-assess your benefit entitlement. You may be asked to provide proof of your spending so it is always worthwhile keeping receipts.

If you spend or give away your capital or savings in order to increase or gain benefit entitlement, your claim may be refused.

### Is any capital or savings not taken into account?

Certain payments such as Second World War ex-gratia payments, gallantry awards and awards for personal injury held in a trust fund are disregarded when we assess your entitlement. If you receive one of these awards please let us know even though it will not affect your benefit entitlement.

If you have sold a former home we can disregard the capital you receive provided it is intended to buy another home within 26 weeks or such period that is reasonable, given the circumstances. Any interest you earn on this capital is, however, counted as capital in the usual way.

### What happens if your circumstances change

You don't have to tell us about minor changes in your current account or the day to day changes in the value of any stocks or shares you hold but you must tell us if: The level of savings you have in your bank or building society changes by more than £250 or by more than £500 if you are over 60 years of age.