

The Department of Communities & Local Government's update

The Department of Communities and Local Government's name has been changed to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) following the recent ministerial reshuffle.

Local council tax support regulatory and policy updates

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2017 No. 1305
The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2017 No. 1305 and its accompanying Explanatory Memorandum, on [legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2017/1305>. The statutory instruments were laid before Parliament on 21st December 2017 and came into force on 12 January 2018. The Regulations mentioned above set out figures for the updated amounts of pensioner allowances, premia and deductions.

Other Consequential Amendments and Disregards:

The Fire and Rescue Authority (Police and Crime Commissioner) (Application of Local Policing Provisions, Inspection, Powers to Trade and Consequential Amendments) Order 2017 (SI 2017/863) has made consequential amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012, to **disregard the earnings of part-time fire-fighter employed by a fire and rescue authority**.

Disregarded payments set out in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2017 include those of **the infected blood schemes**.

Publication of the Government response to local council tax support review recommendations

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government conducted a review of the local council tax support schemes and a report was published in April 2016. A copy of the report is at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514767/Local_Council_Tax_support_schemes_-_review_report.pdf.

We have published the Government response to the review on local council tax support schemes, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-local-council-tax-support-schemes-government-response>.