

Discretionary Housing Payments - Best Practice Guide

This Best Practice Guide updates and replaces information about Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) you will have received in the past.

The new guidance reflects changes that are effective from 7 April 2008 following the laying of Statutory Instrument No. 2008/637 which amended the following provisions within the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations 2001

- Regulation 3
 - references to the Housing Benefit (HB) Regulations 1987 have been updated to reflect the consolidation of the HB regulations in 2006 which has led to some references now being out of date. These changes have no policy impact but will improve the usability of the regulations
 - a reference to Reduced Benefit Directions under the Child Support Act 1991 has been updated as this reference has changed since the 2001 regulations were made
 - a provision has been inserted to exclude shortfalls caused by deductions due to either HB or Council Tax Benefit (CTB) overpayment recovery from being covered by a DHP. This was said to be the accepted interpretation of the regulations and we wanted to clarify the regulations to this effect
- Regulation 5
 - a provision has been inserted to ensure that a DHP cannot cover a period when there is no simultaneous entitlement to either HB or CTB. This was also said to be the accepted interpretation of the regulations and we wanted to clarify the regulations to this effect

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