



**The Government is making a number of changes to Housing Benefit from April 2011.**

There are three changes from April 2011

**1. Changes to the way Local Housing Allowance is worked out.**

This change will only affect people who rent from a private landlord and have made a new claim or changed address to a private landlord after the 7 April 2008.

**2. Increase in Non-Dependant Charges**

**3. Extra Room for a Carer**

**Changes to the way Local Housing Allowance is worked out**

You will not be affected by the Local Housing Allowance changes if you rent from

- a Housing Association
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- you live in a hostel or
- you own your own home.

**Increases in the non dependant charges.**

This will affect anyone who has someone over the age of 18 who lives with but is not dependent upon the person claiming benefit. These are often grown up sons and daughters or relatives living with the person claiming benefit as part of their household. Joint Tenants and subtenants are not non-dependants. If you have a non-dependant living with you then your benefit will be reduced. The amount of the deduction depends upon the age of the non-dependent and whether or not they are working.

**Extra bedroom if you have a carer**

If you rent from a private landlord and

- receive Disability Allowance or Attendance Allowance because you need someone to care for you during the night and
- the carer lives elsewhere

from April 2011 payment can be made for the additional bedroom. If you receive local Housing Allowance then the most you can receive is the four bedroom rate. If you think you this applies to you please contact Carmarthenshire County Council's Housing Benefit Office.