

Using the 'Entitled to' benefits calculator

Before you start

Before you start to use the calculator, there are a few things you will need to know. It will be easier for you to work through all the questions if you have gathered this information for you and your partner, if you have one.

Information needed - Tick end column if you have it	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● If you are married, in a civil partnership, or living with someone as a couple, what is your partner's income, including any benefits? We need to know this as you will be assessed as a couple. If you have anyone else living with you, we need to know about that too	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Details of all your income, e.g. earnings, state pension, occupational pension, disability benefit, attendance allowance or other state benefits.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How much money do you have in savings, investments and other capital?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How much is your annual council tax bill and do you get any discounts?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do you pay rent, service charges or mortgage? How much?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do you have anyone else, e.g. grown-up children, living with you? Are they in employment or on benefits? What is their income?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Does anyone receive Carer's Allowance or a Universal Credit carer element for looking after you or anyone in your household?	

You will find it useful to gather all this information in the same place, especially if you need to write down dates of birth of children etc.

You may be asked to enter your income from benefits. If you don't know how much you get, your most recent award letter will tell you. If you are not sure of the name of the benefit you get see the 'How to tell which benefits you receive' section below.

If you don't have the exact information that you need, it is possible to complete the process using estimates, but please be aware that the results may not be correct for you.

How to tell which benefits you receive

It is important that you are able to enter how much you get from each benefit separately, as different rules apply to income from different benefits.

If you have an award letter from the Department for Work and Pensions this will tell you the name of the benefit(s) you receive. This is the best way to find out how much you currently receive in benefits.

Alternatively, when DWP put money into your bank account there is normally a label attached to the relevant line on your bank statement showing the initials of the benefit you get.

Please also note that if you pay tax it is important that you enter your net income from benefits, after any tax due has been paid.

If you have been asked to bring this back to foodbank

Ask for:

Date:

Time:

Foodbank:

For more information regarding benefits, or food ask at the foodbank or visit <https://melinks.org>
