

2013 No. 2978

HOUSING

The Rent Officers (Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Functions) (Local Housing Allowance Amendments) Order 2013

Made - - - - 25th November 2013
Laid before Parliament 2nd December 2013
Coming into force - - 13th January 2014

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by section 122(1) and (6) of the Housing Act 1996(a).

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Functions) (Local Housing Allowance Amendments) Order 2013 and comes into force on 13th January 2014.

Amendment to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997

2.—(1) Schedule 3B (Broad rental market area determinations and local housing allowance determinations)(b) to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997(c) is amended as follows.

(2) For paragraph 2 (Local housing allowance for category of dwelling in paragraph 1)(d) substitute—

“Local housing allowance for category of dwelling in paragraph 1

2.—(1) Subject to paragraph 3 (anomalous local housing allowances)(e), the rent officer must determine a local housing allowance for each category of dwelling in paragraph 1 as follows.

(2) For the broad rental market areas listed in column 1 of the table in paragraph 6 the local housing allowance is—

(a) for a category of dwelling listed in column 2 in relation to that broad rental market area, either—

(a) 1996 c. 52. Section 122(1) was amended by paragraph 36 of Schedule 2 to the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5).
(b) Schedule 3B was inserted by S.I. 2007/2871.
(c) S.I. 1997/1984.
(d) Paragraph 2 was inserted by S.I. 2007/2871 and amended by S.I. 2008/3156, S.I. 2009/2459, S.I. 2010/2836, S.I. 2012/646 and S.I. 2013/1544.
(e) Paragraph 3 was inserted by S.I. 2007/2871 and amended by S.I. 2010/2836.

- (i) the rate last determined increased by 4 per cent; or
 - (ii) the maximum local housing allowance for that category of dwelling listed in column (2) of the table in sub-paragraph (9) where that is lower than or equal to the rate last determined increased by 4 per cent;
- (b) for any category of dwelling not listed in column 2 of the table in paragraph 6 in relation to that broad rental market area, either—
 - (i) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8); or
 - (ii) the rate last determined for that category of dwelling increased by 1 per cent. where that is lower than or equal to the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8).
- (3) For all other broad rental market areas the local housing allowance for a category of dwelling is, either—
 - (a) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8); or
 - (b) the rate last determined for that category of dwelling increased by 1 per cent. where that is lower than or equal to the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8).
- (4) The rent officer must compile a list of rents in ascending order of the rents which, in the rent officer's opinion, are payable—
 - (a) for a dwelling let under an assured tenancy for each category of dwelling specified in paragraph 1; and
 - (b) in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the determination.
- (5) In compiling the list of rents, the rent officer must—
 - (a) include within it the rent of an assured tenancy in relation to each category of dwelling if—
 - (i) the dwelling let under the assured tenancy is in the broad rental market area for which the local housing allowance for that category of dwelling is being determined;
 - (ii) the dwelling is in a reasonable state of repair; and
 - (iii) the assured tenancy permits the tenant to use exclusively or share the use of, as the case may be, the same number and type of rooms as the category of dwelling in relation to which the list is being compiled;
 - (b) include within it any rents which are of the same amount;
 - (c) where rent is payable other than weekly, use the figure which would be payable if the rent were to be payable weekly by—
 - (i) multiplying the rent by an appropriate figure to obtain the rent for a year;
 - (ii) dividing the total in (i) by 365; and
 - (iii) multiplying the total in (ii) by 7;
 - (d) assume that no one who would have been entitled to housing benefit had sought or is seeking the tenancy; and
 - (e) exclude the amount of any rent which, in the rent officer's opinion, is fairly attributable to the provision of services performed for, or facilities (including the use of furniture) provided for, or rights made available to, the tenant which are ineligible to be met by housing benefit.
- (6) Sub-paragraph (7) applies where the rent officer is not satisfied that the list of rents in respect of any category of dwelling would contain sufficient rents, payable in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the determination for dwellings in the broad rental market area, to enable a local housing allowance to be

determined which is representative of the rents that a landlord might reasonably be expected to obtain in that area.

(7) In a case where this sub-paragraph applies the rent officer may add to the list rents for dwellings in the same category in other areas in which a comparable market exists.

(8) The rent officer must use the list of rents to determine the rent at the 30th percentile in the list (“R”) by—

(a) where the number of rents on the list is a multiple of 10, applying the formula—

$$R = \frac{\text{the amount of the rent at P} + \text{the amount of the rent at P1}}{2}$$

Where—

- (i) P is the position on the list found by multiplying the number of rents on the list by 3 and dividing by 10; and
- (ii) P1 is the following position on the list;

(b) where the number of rents on the list is not a multiple of 10, applying the formula—

$$R = \text{the amount of the rent at P2}$$

Where—

P2 is the position on the list found by multiplying the number of rents on the list by 3 and dividing by 10 and rounding the result upwards to the nearest whole number.

(3) The maximum local housing allowance for each category of dwelling specified in the paragraph of this Schedule listed in column (1) is the amount specified for that category of dwelling in column (2).

<i>(1) Paragraph of this Schedule defining the category of dwelling</i>	<i>(2) Maximum local housing allowance for that category of dwelling</i>
paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)	£258.06
paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)	£258.06
paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)	£299.34
paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)	£350.95
paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)	£412.89

(10) Where the local housing allowance would otherwise not be a whole number of pence, it must be rounded to the nearest whole penny by disregarding any amount less than half a penny and treating any amount of half a penny or more as a whole penny.”.

(3) After paragraph 5 insert—

“6. The table referred to in paragraph 2(2) of this Schedule is below.

<i>(1) Broad rental market area</i>	<i>(2) Paragraph of this Schedule defining the category of dwelling</i>
Ashford	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Aylesbury	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Barnsley	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)

Bath	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Bedford	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Blackwater Valley	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Blaenau Gwent	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Bolton and Bury	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Brecon and Radnor	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Bridgend	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Brighton and Hove	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Bristol	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Caerphilly	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Cambridge	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Canterbury	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Central Lancs	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Central London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Ceredigion	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Cheltenham	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Cherwell Valley	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Chesterfield	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Chichester	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Coventry	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Crawley & Reigate	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Derby	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Durham	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
East Cheshire	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
East Thames Valley	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Exeter	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared

	accommodation)
Gloucester	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
High Weald	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Hull & East Riding	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Inner East London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Inner North London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Inner South East London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Inner South West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Inner West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Lancaster	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Leeds	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Luton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Maidstone	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Mendip	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Merthyr Cynon	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Mid & East Devon	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Mid & West Dorset	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Mid Staffs	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Neath Port Talbot	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Newbury	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
North Cornwall & Devon Borders	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared

	accommodation)
North Nottingham	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
North West Kent	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
North West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
North West Wales	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Northampton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Outer East London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Outer North London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Outer South London	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Outer South West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Oxford	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Rotherham	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Scarborough	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Sheffield	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
South Cheshire	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
South East Herts	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
South Gwynedd	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Southampton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Southern Greater Manchester	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Staffordshire North	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Taff Rhondda	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared

Thanet	accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Walton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Warwickshire South	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
West Wiltshire	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Wolds and Coast	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Worcester North	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Worcester South	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Yeovil	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)”).

Amendment to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) (Scotland) Order 1997

3.—(1) Schedule 3B (Broad rental market area determinations and local housing allowance determinations)(a) to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) (Scotland) Order 1997(b) is amended as follows.

(2) For paragraph 2 (Local housing allowance for category of dwelling in paragraph 1)(c) substitute—

“Local housing allowance for category of dwelling in paragraph 1

2.—(1) Subject to paragraph 3 (anomalous local housing allowances)(d), the rent officer must determine a local housing allowance for each category of dwelling in paragraph 1 as follows.

(2) For the broad rental market areas listed in column 1 of the table in paragraph 6 the local housing allowance is—

- (a) for a category of dwelling listed in column 2 in relation to that broad rental market area, either—
 - (i) the rate last determined increased by 4 per cent; or
 - (ii) the maximum local housing allowance for that category of dwelling listed in column (2) of the table in sub-paragraph (9) where that is lower than or equal to the rate last determined increased by 4 per cent.
- (b) for any category of dwelling not listed in column 2 of the table in paragraph 6 in relation to that broad rental market area, either—
 - (i) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8); or
 - (ii) the rate last determined for that category of dwelling increased by 1 per cent. where that is lower than or equal to the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8).

(3) For all other broad rental market areas the local housing allowance for a category of dwelling is either—

(a) Schedule 3B was inserted by S.I. 2007/2871.

(b) S.I. 1997/1995.

(c) Paragraph 2 was inserted by S.I. 2007/2871 and amended by S.I. 2008/3156, S.I. 2009/2459, S.I. 2010/2836, S.I. 2012/646 and S.I. 2013/1544.

(d) Paragraph 3 was inserted by S.I. 2007/2871 and amended by S.I. 2010/2836.

- (a) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8); or
 - (b) the rate last determined for that category of dwelling increased by 1 per cent. where that is lower than or equal to the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8).
- (4) The rent officer must compile a list of rents in ascending order of the rents which, in the rent officer's opinion, are payable—
- (a) for a dwelling let under an assured tenancy for each category of dwelling specified in paragraph 1; and
 - (b) in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the determination.
- (5) In compiling the list of rents, the rent officer must—
- (a) include within it the rent of an assured tenancy in relation to each category of dwelling if—
 - (i) the dwelling let under the assured tenancy is in the broad rental market area for which the local housing allowance for that category of dwelling is being determined;
 - (ii) the dwelling is in a reasonable state of repair; and
 - (iii) the assured tenancy permits the tenant to use exclusively or share the use of, as the case may be, the same number and type of rooms as the category of dwelling in relation to which the list is being compiled;
 - (b) include within it any rents which are of the same amount;
 - (c) where rent is payable other than weekly, use the figure which would be payable if the rent were to be payable weekly by—
 - (i) multiplying the rent by an appropriate figure to obtain the rent for a year;
 - (ii) dividing the total in (i) by 365; and
 - (iii) multiplying the total in (ii) by 7;
 - (d) assume that no one who would have been entitled to housing benefit had sought or is seeking the tenancy; and
 - (e) exclude the amount of any rent which, in the rent officer's opinion, is fairly attributable to the provision of services performed for, or facilities (including the use of furniture) provided for, or rights made available to, the tenant which are ineligible to be met by housing benefit.
- (6) Sub-paragraph (7) applies where the rent officer is not satisfied that the list of rents in respect of any category of dwelling would contain sufficient rents, payable in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the determination for dwellings in the broad rental market area, to enable a local housing allowance to be determined which is representative of the rents that a landlord might reasonably be expected to obtain in that area.
- (7) In a case where this sub-paragraph applies the rent officer may add to the list rents for dwellings in the same category in other areas in which a comparable market exists.
- (8) The rent officer must use the list of rents to determine the rent at the 30th percentile in the list ("R") by—
- (a) where the number of rents on the list is a multiple of 10, applying the formula—

$$R = \frac{\text{the amount of the rent at P} + \text{the amount of the rent at P1}}{2}$$

Where—

- (i) P is the position on the list found by multiplying the number of rents on the list by 3 and dividing by 10; and

- (ii) P1 is the following position on the list;
- (b) where the number of rents on the list is not a multiple of 10, applying the formula—

$$R = \text{the amount of the rent at P2}$$

Where—

P2 is the position on the list found by multiplying the number of rents on the list by 3 and dividing by 10 and rounding the result upwards to the nearest whole number.

(9) The maximum local housing allowance for each category of dwelling specified in the paragraph of this Schedule listed in column (1) is the amount specified for that category of dwelling in column (2).

<i>(1) Paragraph of this Schedule defining the category of dwelling</i>	<i>(2) Maximum local housing allowance for that category of dwelling</i>
paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)	£258.06
paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)	£258.06
paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)	£299.34
paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)	£350.95
paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)	£412.89

(10) Where the local housing allowance would otherwise not be a whole number of pence, it must be rounded to the nearest whole penny by disregarding any amount less than half a penny and treating any amount of half a penny or more as a whole penny.”.

(3) After paragraph 5 insert—

“6. The table referred to in paragraph 2(2) of this Schedule is below.

<i>(1) Broad rental market area</i>	<i>(2) Paragraph of this Schedule defining the category of dwelling</i>
Aberdeen and Shire	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Argyll and Bute	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Fife	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Forth Valley	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Greater Glasgow	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Scottish Borders	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)”.

Amendment to the Rent Officers (Universal Credit Functions) Order 2013

4.—(1) The Rent Officers (Universal Credit Functions) Order 2013(a) is amended as follows.

(a) S.I. 2013/382.

(2) In paragraph (6)(b) of article 3 (Broad rental market area determinations) and in paragraph (3) of article 4 (Local housing allowance determinations) for “1st April” substitute “7th April”.

(3) Schedule 1 (Local housing allowance determinations)(a) is amended as follows—

(a) For paragraph 2 (Local housing allowance for category of accommodation in paragraph 1) substitute—

“Local housing allowance for category of accommodation in paragraph 1

2.—(1) Subject to paragraph 5 (anomalous local housing allowances) the rent officer must determine a local housing allowance for each category of accommodation in paragraph 1 as follows.

(2) For the broad rental market areas listed in column 1 of the table in paragraph 6 the local housing allowance is—

(a) for a category of accommodation listed in column 2 in relation to that broad rental market area, either—

(i) the rate last determined increased by 4 per cent; or

(ii) the maximum local housing allowance for that category of accommodation listed in column (2) of the table in paragraph 4 (Maximum local housing allowance) where that is lower than or equal to the rate last determined increased by 4 per cent;

(b) for any category of accommodation not listed in column 2 of the table in paragraph 6 in relation to that broad rental market area, either—

(i) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with paragraph 3 (Rent at the 30th percentile); or

(ii) the rate last determined for that category of accommodation increased by 1 per cent. where that is lower than or equal to the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with paragraph 3.

(3) For all other broad rental market areas the local housing allowance for a category of accommodation is, either—

(a) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with paragraph 3; or

(b) the rate last determined for that category of accommodation increased by 1 per cent. where that is lower than or equal to the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with paragraph 3.

(4) Where the local housing allowance would otherwise not be a whole number of pence, it must be rounded to the nearest whole penny by disregarding any amount less than half a penny and treating any amount of half a penny or more as a whole penny.”;

(b) in paragraph 3 (Rent at the 30th percentile)—

(i) for sub-paragraph (3) substitute—

“(3) The rent officer must compile a list of rents in ascending order of the monthly rents which, in the rent officer’s opinion, are payable—

(a) for accommodation let under an assured tenancy for each category of accommodation specified in paragraph 1; and

(b) in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the determination.”;

(ii) for sub-paragraph (6) substitute—

“(6) Sub-paragraph (7) applies where the rent officer is not satisfied that the list of rents in respect of any category of accommodation would contain sufficient rents, payable in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the

(a) Schedule 1 was amended by S.I. 2013/1544.

determination for accommodation in the broad rental market area, to enable a local housing allowance to be determined which is representative of the rents that a landlord might reasonably be expected to obtain in that area.”;

- (c) for paragraph 4 (Amount determined by reference to the previous local housing allowance)(a) substitute—

“Maximum local housing allowance

4. The maximum local housing allowance for each category of accommodation specified in the paragraph of this Schedule listed in column (1) is the amount specified for that category of accommodation in column (2).

<i>(1) Paragraph of this Schedule defining the category of accommodation</i>	<i>(2) Maximum local housing allowance for that category of accommodation</i>
paragraph 1(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)	£1121.33
paragraph 1(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)	£1121.33
paragraph 1(c) (two bedrooms)	£1300.70
paragraph 1(d) (three bedrooms)	£1524.96
paragraph 1(e) (four bedrooms)	£1794.11”;

- (d) after paragraph 5 insert—

“6. The table referred to in paragraph 2(2) of this Schedule is below.

<i>(1) Broad rental market area</i>	<i>(2) Paragraph of this Schedule defining the category of accommodation</i>
Aberdeen and Shire	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Argyll and Bute	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Ashford	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Aylesbury	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Barnsley	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Bath	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Bedford	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Blackwater Valley	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Blaenau Gwent	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)

(a) Paragraph 4 was amended by S.I. 2013/1544.

Bolton and Bury	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Brecon and Radnor	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Bridgend	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Brighton and Hove	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Bristol	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Caerphilly	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Cambridge	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Canterbury	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Central Lancs	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Central London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Ceredigion	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Cheltenham	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Cherwell Valley	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Chesterfield	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Chichester	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Coventry	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Crawley & Reigate	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Derby	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Durham	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
East Cheshire	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
East Thames Valley	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Exeter	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Fife	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Forth Valley	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Gloucester	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Greater Glasgow	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
High Weald	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Hull & East Riding	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)

Inner East London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Inner North London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Inner South East London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Inner South West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Inner West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Lancaster	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Leeds	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Luton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms) paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Maidstone	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Mendip	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Merthyr Cynon	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Mid & East Devon	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation) paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
Mid & West Dorset	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Mid Staffs	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Neath Port Talbot	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Newbury	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
North Cornwall & Devon Borders	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
North Nottingham	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
North West Kent	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
North West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)

	accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
North West Wales	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Northampton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Outer East London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Outer North London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Outer South London	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Outer South West London	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Oxford	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Rotherham	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
Scarborough	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Scottish Borders	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Sheffield	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
South Cheshire	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
	paragraph 1(1)(c) (two bedrooms)
South East Herts	paragraph 1(1)(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)
South Gwynedd	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Southampton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Southern Greater Manchester	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
Staffordshire North	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Taff Rhondda	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Thanet	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Walton	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared

	accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Warwickshire South	paragraph 1(1)(d) (three bedrooms)
West Wiltshire	paragraph 1(1)(e) (four bedrooms)
Wolds and Coast	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Worcester North	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Worcester South	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)
Yeovil	paragraph 1(1)(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)".

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

25th November 2013

Freud
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Work and Pensions

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997 (the “Rent Officers Order”), the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) (Scotland) Order 1997 (the “Rent Officers Scotland Order”) and the Rent Officers (Universal Credit Functions) Order 2013 (the “UC Order”).

Articles 2 and 3 amend the Rent Officers Order and the Rent Officers Scotland Order respectively to provide for how the local housing allowance (“LHA”) rate will be calculated. The amendments provide that the rate will be determined differently depending on the category of dwelling for which the rate is being determined and the broad rental market area in which the dwelling is situated.

The amendments insert a table into Schedule 3B to each of the Rent Officers Order and the Rent Officers Scotland Order. If the broad rental market area is listed in column 1 of that table then the LHA rate will depend on whether a category of dwelling is listed in column 2 of the table in relation to that broad rental market area.

If the category of dwelling is listed in column 2 of the table in relation to that broad rental market area, then the LHA rate will be the lower of either:

- the previous LHA rate increased by 4 per cent; or
- the maximum local housing allowance for that category of dwelling.

If the category of dwelling is not listed in column 2 of the table in relation to that broad rental market area, then the LHA rate will be the lower of either:

- the rent at the 30th percentile of listed rents; or
- the previous LHA rate increased by 1 per cent.

For all broad rental market areas not listed in column 1 of the table, the LHA rate will be the lower of the rent at the 30th percentile of listed rents or the previous LHA rate increased by 1 per cent.

Articles 2 and 3 also amend those Orders to provide that the determinations made by the rent officers will be based on the list of market rents payable in the 12 month period ending on the 30th day of the September preceding the date of the determination. They also make consequential amendments to Schedule 3B to those Orders.

Article 4 makes similar amendments to the UC Order. It also changes the date that LHA determinations and broad rental market area determinations take effect. Those determinations will now take effect on 7th April.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no new impact on business or civil society organisations.

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£5.75

UK2013112517 12/2013 19585

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2013/2978>

ISBN 978-0-11-110638-9



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