

# Your Council Tax explained

## 2019-20



### How much is the Council Tax?

Council Tax is charged on domestic properties where people live. Each property in the borough is in one of eight bands. The band is based on what the property would have sold for on 1 April 1991. Your band is shown on your Council Tax bill.

- **Advice from the Valuation Office Agency about how Council Tax bands are set is available at [www.gov.uk/guidance/understand-how-council-tax-bands-are-assessed](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/understand-how-council-tax-bands-are-assessed)**

Your Council Tax bill is made up of four parts:

- Bury Council - main part of the Council Tax used for all the services we provide
- Adult Social Care - introduced in 2016, this is a portion of the Council Tax earmarked for providing social care for adults in the borough
- Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept - pays towards local policing in the Greater Manchester region
- Mayoral General Precept - most of this money goes towards providing a regional Fire and Rescue Service. It also includes a contribution to fund the Greater Manchester's elected mayor, and the functions he is responsible for

Council Tax Band	Bury Council	Bury Council Adult Social Care Precept	Mayoral Police & Crime Commissioner Precept	Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	Full Council Tax charge
A	£961.01	£72.94	£132.20	£51.29	£1217.44
B	£1121.19	£85.09	£154.23	£59.84	£1420.35
C	£1281.35	£97.25	£176.27	£68.39	£1623.26
D	£1441.54	£109.40	£198.30	£76.95	£1826.19
E	£1761.86	£133.72	£242.37	£94.05	£2232.00
F	£2082.19	£158.03	£286.43	£111.15	£2637.80
G	£2402.55	£182.34	£330.50	£128.24	£3043.63
H	£2883.04	£218.81	£396.60	£153.90	£3652.35

## Discounts

The full Council Tax bill assumes that two or more adults are living in a property. If only one adult lives there we will reduce your bill by 25%.

We will not count the following people when we decide on the number of adults living in a property:

- full-time students and some student nurses
- apprentices and youth trainees
- patients who live in hospital
- people who are being looked after in care homes
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people staying in hostels for the homeless or night shelters
- 18 and 19 year-olds who are still at home or have just left school
- care workers on low pay
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not their partner, or a child under 18
- member of visiting forces
- members of religious communities (including monks and nuns)
- people in prison (except for those in prison for not paying their Council Tax or a fine)

## Reductions for disabled people

You may also be eligible for a reduced bill if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled and needs:

- a room of their own
- an extra bathroom or kitchen
- extra space in your property

## Empty property discounts

Most properties qualify for a discount if they are empty:

- empty and unfurnished for up to 1 month - 100% discount
- empty and unfurnished for up to 2 years - 25% discount
- empty and furnished - 25% discount
- empty and uninhabitable - 50% discount

We charge extra Council Tax if a property has been empty and unfurnished for more than 2 years. The Empty Property Premium has increased in April 2019 from 50% to 100% of the full Council Tax charge.

- **Do you own a house that's been empty for longer than 6 months? Find out more about bringing it back into use at [www.bury.gov.uk/emptypropertyadvice](http://www.bury.gov.uk/emptypropertyadvice)**

## Care leaver discount

If you have been in care then you may be entitled to a 100% discount on your Council Tax until you are 25.

## Exemptions

Some empty properties are exempt from Council Tax if they are:

- unoccupied and owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- left empty by prisoners
- left empty by long stay patients in care homes and hospitals
- left empty following the death of the taxpayer
- unoccupied because the law says it cannot be occupied
- empty and awaiting occupation by a minister of religion
- left empty by someone who is receiving or providing care
- left empty by students
- repossessed by the mortgagee
- left empty by bankrupts
- unoccupied caravan pitches and boat moorings
- unoccupied annexes which form part of a single property and cannot be let separately

Some occupied properties are also exempt:

- annexes occupied by an elderly or disabled relative
- armed forces accommodation such as barracks
- halls of residence
- visiting forces accommodation

Some properties are exempt because all the people living there are:

- students or school leavers
- people aged under 18
- severely mentally impaired
- diplomats

- **For more information about discounts and exemptions, please visit [www.bury.gov.uk/helpwithcounciltax](http://www.bury.gov.uk/helpwithcounciltax)**

If your bill shows that you have a discount or an exemption, we need you to tell us if something changes which affects this. If you do not tell us within 21 days, you may have to pay a penalty of £50.

## Council Tax Support

The Council operates a scheme to help people on low incomes with their Council Tax.

- **Find out more about Council Tax Support at [www.bury.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport](http://www.bury.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport)**

## Appeals

If you disagree with the band your property has been placed in you have six months to appeal from when:

- you become a new taxpayer at the property
- the Listing Officer or the court changes the band of your property

If more than 6 months has passed you can only appeal against your banding:

- if your property is demolished
- if your house is changed into flats
- if there are changes to your local area which would affect the value of your property

- **Appeals should be made to the Listing Officer, Valuation Office Agency, Manchester Group Office, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LD or phone 0300 050 3600**

You can also appeal if you think that you should not be responsible for paying Council Tax. This could be because do not live at the address, you believe your property should be exempt, or you think we have made a mistake on your bill.

- **If you want to appeal because you think you should not be responsible for paying the Council Tax please either email [counciltax@bury.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@bury.gov.uk), or write to Council Tax, 7 Whittaker Street, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 2DT.**

**You must pay your Council Tax while your appeal is being looked at. If your appeal is successful, we will pay back any overpayments.**