

Worrying about money?

Support is available in Scottish Borders



Three steps to find options and places to get help

Step 1: What's the problem?

I suddenly have no money

- Lost job or reduced hours
- Money stopped
- Lost money
- Unexpected expense
- Disaster (e.g. flood or fire)
- Relationship breakdown
- Sanctioned (see option: **5**)

See options **1 2 6**

My money doesn't stretch far enough

- Deciding between food, fuel, and mobile credit
- Low income
- Zero hours contract
- Statutory Sick Pay too low
- Facing redundancy
- Not sure if eligible for support
- Change of circumstance

See options **1 2**

I have debt

- Rent or Council Tax
- Gas and electricity
- Payday loans
- Owe friends or family
- Benefit repayments

See option **3**

I am waiting on a benefit payment or advance

- New claim for benefit
- Payment delayed
- Waiting for decision

See options **1 4**

Step 2: What are some options?

1 Scottish Welfare Fund

People on low incomes may be able to get a crisis grant from the Council. This is a payment to help you cope during an emergency or disaster, or due to unexpected expenses. Crisis grants do not have to be paid back (not a loan).

Find out more at:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/benefits (Under Community Care and Crisis Grants)

2 Maximise Your Income

Anyone who is struggling financially can get a benefit check and speak to an advisor for free and confidential advice. A benefit check can ensure that you are receiving all the money you're entitled to, especially if your circumstances have changed recently. Speaking to an advisor could also help with managing gas and electricity bills and make sure you're not missing out on things like school clothing grants or free school meals.

3 Debt Advice

Debt can happen to anyone. Free advice and support can help you find ways to manage your debts and reduce how much you pay each month.

4 Benefit Advance

If you have made a new claim for benefit and are in financial hardship while you wait for your first payment, you may be able to get an advance to afford things like rent or food. It's important to get advice before taking out an advance. Benefit advances must be paid back, and the money will be taken from your future benefit payments (a loan).

5 Hardship Payment

If you have been sanctioned, you may be able to request a hardship payment from the Jobcentre. Hardship payments are not always paid immediately, and they're not available to everyone. Hardship payments of Universal Credit need to be paid back (a loan), but hardship payments of Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment Support Allowance do not (not a loan).

6 Challenge a Decision

You can challenge a benefit decision if your benefit has been stopped / sanctioned / reduced / refused or you have been overpaid. Most benefit decisions need to be challenged within one month.

Step 3: Where can I get help? The organisations below offer free and confidential advice

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

Financial Inclusion and Advice Team

Advice on benefits, sanctions, benefit appeals and redundancy

0300 100 1800 | www.scotborders.gov.uk

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

CENTRAL BORDERS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

**Support with debt, benefits, housing,
employment & more (based in Galashiels)**

01896 753 889

enquiries@centralborderscab.casonline.org.uk

www.galashielscab.org.uk

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

PEEBLES AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

**Support with debt, benefits, housing,
employment and more (based in Peebles)**

01721 721 722

manager@peeblescab.casonline.org.uk

www.peeblescab.org.uk

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

ROXBURGH AND BERWICKSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

**Support with debt, benefits, housing,
employment and more**

Duns

01361 883 340

Eyemouth

01890 750 500

Kelso

01573 223 516

Hawick

01450 374 266

enquiries@roxburghcab.casonline.org

www.roxburghcab.org.uk

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

WAVERLEY HOUSING

Money and benefits advice for tenants

01450 364 200

info@waverley-housing.co.uk

www.waverley-housing.co.uk/tenant-zone

Help with options: 1 2 4 6

EILDON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Money and benefits advice for tenants

0300 020 0217

tenancysustainment@eildon.org.uk

www.eildon.org.uk/benefits

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

BERWICKSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Money and benefits advice for tenants

0800 652 8104

info@berwickshirehousing.org.uk

www.berwickshirehousing.org.uk/money-advice

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

SCOTTISH BORDERS HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Money and benefits advice for tenants

01750 724 444

enquiries@sbha.org.uk

www.sbha.org.uk/contact-us

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Scottish Welfare Fund

**Crisis grants to cover the cost of
an emergency**

0300 100 1800

www.scotborders.gov.uk/benefits

Department for Work and Pensions

Information on other entitlements

www.gov.uk

Social Security Scotland

**You may be eligible for support
from Social Security Scotland. For
example, Scottish Child Payment,
Best Start Grant and Best Start
Foods can help with the costs of
having a child.**

mygov.scot/benefits | 0800 182 2222

More Advice and Support

We are With You Borders

Support for individuals concerned about their alcohol and/or drug use
01896 757 843
wearewithyou.org.uk/services/the-borders

Borders Addiction Service

Support to anyone 16+yrs with drug and/or alcohol dependency
01896 664 430

Scottish Borders CHIMES Service (Action for Children)

Support to young carers, young people and parents impacted by alcohol and drug use
01896 750 173
CHIMES@actionforchildren.org.uk

Scottish Borders Council

Homelessness support & information
01896 661 385 | 01896 752 111 (after hours)
www.scotborders.gov.uk/homelessness

Shelter

Free housing advice
0808 800 4444 | scotland.shelter.org.uk

Borders Care and Repair

Advice and assistance to help repair, improve or adapt your home to live in comfort and safety in the community (for disabled people or people over 60)
01750 724 895
CareAndRepairEnquiries@eildon.org.uk
www.eildon.org.uk

Breathing Space

Confidential phoneline for anyone feeling low, anxious or depressed
0800 83 85 87 | www.breathingspace.scot

Christians Against Poverty

Debt counselling
0800 328 0006 | contact@capuk.org
www.capuk.org

Turn2Us

Information and financial support
0808 802 2000 | www.turn2us.org.uk

Home Energy Scotland

Free, impartial energy efficiency advice
0808 808 2282
www.homeenergyscotland.org

For Migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Scottish Refugee Council

Information, support, advice & advocacy to asylum seekers & refugees
0808 196 7274
www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Migrant Help

Independent advice and guidance to move through the UK asylum process
0808 801 0503 | www.migranthelpuk.org

About this leaflet

This leaflet, developed with support from the organisations below, is based on learning from Scotland's A Menu for Change project. Access 'Worrying About Money?' leaflets: www.ifanuk.org/cashfirst. Last updated on: 26/07/23.

Feedback? www.bit.ly/moneyadvicefeedback.

Interactive version



www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/scottish-borders

