



# Northumberland County Council

<b>APPLICATION FOR DISABLED BAND REDUCTION</b>	<b>Acct. Ref:</b>	
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<b>Name of disabled person:</b>		
<b>Date of Birth</b>		
<b>Nature of Disability:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		

The following facilities are essential or of major importance to the above named disabled person because of the nature of their disability (please tick all boxes that apply)

A room used predominantly by the disabled person:

A second bathroom or kitchen

Space to use a wheelchair indoors by the disabled person


If there is a room used predominantly by the disabled person, please give details of the use of the room:


## **DECLARATION**

I declare that the disabled person named above is solely or mainly resident in the property and that the information given is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

<b>Signed:</b>		
<b>Full Name:</b>		
<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Daytime Telephone Number:</b>		

Please complete and return this form to the address below.

### **Council Tax, Revenues Section**

Wansbeck Square, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9XL  
T: 01670 624884 E: counciltax@northumberland.gov.uk  
www.northumberland.gov.uk



## **Guidance Notes**

Disabled Band Reduction is based on an assessment of the property. It is not an assessment of the disabled person themselves. It is based on how the property is used and any adaptations that may have been made.

Once we receive your application you will be contacted by one of our visiting officers who will arrange a convenient time to visit the property and compose a report. Ideally this will be when the disabled resident is present, but this is not mandatory. The visiting officer does not make the decision on whether the Disabled Band Relief will be awarded; this is done by a senior officer within the Council Tax team.

Should you be successful in your application you will receive a revised Council Tax bill showing the reduction. Should you be unsuccessful you will receive a letter advising of this decision and the reasoning behind it.

Should a significant backdating of the relief be requested evidence of the existence of the facilities will be required.

## **Case Law**

### ***Howell Williams v Wirral Borough Council (1981)***

A disabled resident applied for relief in respect of their living room that contained a night storage neater that was needed because of the resident's disability.

This was rejected as the resident needed a living room in the same way anybody, disabled or not, would need a living room as part of everyday life.

### ***R (Sandwell MBC) v Perks & West Mids VT (QBD) 2003***

An application was made for relief in respect of a downstairs living room that was used as a bedroom by a disabled resident. This was rejected by the High Court as there was no causative link between the disability and the use of the room.

It is therefore unlikely that your application will be successful if;

- the room is only one of a number equally available in the house for the use of the disabled person
- the use is not intrinsically linked to the room but to items (such as heating, hearing loop or washing/bathing equipment) which could just as well be accommodated in other rooms in the house
- the use of the room by the disabled person does not interfere with its normal use by other members of the household. For example, a bed in a living room would not qualify if the room also continued to be used as a living room.