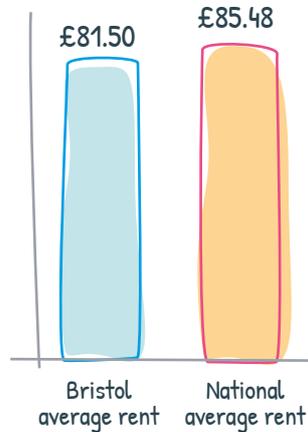


Information about your rent review

Government policy currently allows us to increase rents for the next financial year by 1% above inflation, which is 4.1% – this would be an average of £3.34 a week extra for residents.

The average rent for one of our homes is currently **£81.50** a week, compared to a national average for council housing of **£85.48**.

The increase for 2022/23 of 4.1% means average rents will rise to **£84.84**.



How will Bristol City Council spend the extra rent money?

The extra income we will receive from the increased rents will allow us to invest more in our existing homes. It will provide:

- An extra £80 million for energy efficiency and carbon retrofitting measures by 2030 – to help us meet our ambitious climate change goals.
- £12.5 million for a five-year bathroom replacement programme that will deliver over 5,500 modern new bathrooms in homes by 2027.
- £8.7 million over five years to improve standards in communal areas, blocks, and estates.

What you need to do before your rent increases



● Does Housing Benefit pay some or all, of your rent and other property charges?

If you receive Housing Benefit you don't need to do anything at this stage. We will tell the Housing Benefit service about your new charges. They will write to you at the end of March to let you know your new benefit entitlement from April 2022.

● I receive Universal Credit housing element for my rent

You will need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions about the change in your rent and any service charges so they can amend your claim for Universal Credit. To do this you need to contact Universal Credit either by accessing your online journal or by calling Universal Credit on **0800 328 5644**, supplying your weekly rent liability.

● I do not receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit what do I need to do?

Please make sure you adjust your payments to cover the new charges from 4 April 2022. Charges are due every Monday on a weekly basis. If you wish to pay fortnightly or monthly, you must make payments in advance to stop your account going into arrears.



● I pay by direct debit, what do I need to do?

We will adjust your direct debit for you, and we will write to you with confirmation of the new amount. If you receive housing benefit, please contact us on **0117 922 2200** when you receive details of your new benefit entitlement from 4 April 2022 so that we can review your direct debit amount.

● I pay by standing order, what do I need to do?

Please tell your bank to change your payments to cover the new amount.