



Benefits Section
Causeway House
Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

Backdated Benefit for working age claimants?

To apply to have your Benefit backdated-

1. Put your request in writing, and give the date from which you want the backdate to be considered

2. you must show good cause for not filling in a Benefit Claim form earlier, and provide proof

3. the good cause must have existed continuously throughout the period, up to the date the Benefit claim form was received by the Benefit Section.

4. A backdate may only be granted for **a maximum of 26 weeks** from the ongoing claim or date of request for backdate (whichever is the latest).

What is a Good Cause

- a. Being misled by official advice from the Department for Work and Pensions or a Local Authority
- b. Being misled by the Citizens Advice Bureau, Post Office, Hospital, Solicitors or Accountants.
- c. State of health, e.g. physical or mental illness.
- d. Difficulty with language, e.g. illiteracy, dyslexia.
- e. Young person not used to dealing with their own affairs

What is not a Good Cause

- a. Failure to make enquiries about the rights to benefit
- b. Ignorance about the rights to benefit
- c. Failure to complete an application form in the time limit requested by the Council's Benefit Section

These are only some of the reasons taken into account when you request a backdate of Benefit. Each request is considered individually.

Please provide all relevant proof to prove good cause.

You will be given the decision in writing, and you will have the right to appeal against the decision.