

Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Support to four weeks

- Prior to April 2017 claimants could be temporarily absent from their homes for 13 weeks (in some cases 52 weeks) without it affecting their Council Tax Support (CTS).
- In April 2017, the Housing Benefit (HB) regulations were amended to reduce the period of absence outside of Great Britain to 4 weeks therefore 3 of the 4 district and boroughs amended their CTS schemes to mirror the HB scheme. Corby Borough Council (CBC) currently allow a period of up to 13 weeks.
- There are exceptions for certain occupations such as mariners and the armed forces. The four weeks can be extended to eight weeks in special circumstances. A full list of exceptions for Housing Benefit, which are reflected in the CTS scheme are included in HB circular HB A7/2016 and can be found at the following link:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/540417/a7-2016.pdf
- We are not able to forecast the impact on CBC claimants, this is because we cannot predict how many Council Tax Support claimants are likely to be absent from Great Britain for more than 4 weeks during 2021/22.
- Historically this information is not recorded on the systems we use, but anecdotally all district and boroughs have confirmed that this occurrence is a rarity therefore the impact of this change for CBC would be minimal (if any).