Council Tax Guide 2019-20

Which band?

Your property has been assessed for council tax in one of eight valuation bands (A-H) according to its estimated sale value at 1 April 1991.

The table below shows the council tax payable for this year

### Council Tax charges 2019/20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Gloucester (£)</th>
<th>County (£)</th>
<th>County Adult Social Care (£)</th>
<th>Police and Crime Commissioner (£)</th>
<th>Total for City tax payer (£)</th>
<th>Quedgeley Town Council (£)</th>
<th>Total for Quedgeley tax payer (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>134.66</td>
<td>800.66</td>
<td>61.81</td>
<td>166.99</td>
<td>1164.12</td>
<td>25.39</td>
<td>1189.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>157.10</td>
<td>934.09</td>
<td>72.12</td>
<td>194.83</td>
<td>1358.14</td>
<td>29.62</td>
<td>1387.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>179.55</td>
<td>1067.54</td>
<td>82.42</td>
<td>222.66</td>
<td>1552.17</td>
<td>33.85</td>
<td>1586.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>201.99</td>
<td>1200.98</td>
<td>92.72</td>
<td>250.49</td>
<td>1746.18</td>
<td>38.08</td>
<td>1784.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>246.88</td>
<td>1467.87</td>
<td>113.32</td>
<td>306.15</td>
<td>2134.22</td>
<td>46.55</td>
<td>2180.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>291.76</td>
<td>1734.75</td>
<td>133.93</td>
<td>361.82</td>
<td>2522.26</td>
<td>55.01</td>
<td>2577.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>336.65</td>
<td>2001.64</td>
<td>154.53</td>
<td>417.48</td>
<td>2910.30</td>
<td>63.47</td>
<td>2973.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>403.98</td>
<td>2401.96</td>
<td>185.44</td>
<td>500.98</td>
<td>3492.36</td>
<td>76.17</td>
<td>3568.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase / Decrease</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are a Band D payer £201.99 will go to Gloucester City Council, £250.49 will be going to the Police and Crime Commissioner and £1,293.70 will go towards services supplied by the County Council.

The £1,293.70 for the County Council includes a charge of £92.72 for adult social care functions.
Spending Plans

To see details of Gloucester City Council, Gloustershire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Quedeley Town Council spending plans visit our website at https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/about-the-council/budgets-spending-and-performance/

Details about the Adult Social Care precept issued by Gloustershire County Council can be found at: https://www.gloustershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/performance-and-spending/budget-and-medium-term-financial-strategy/

The right band

There are very few circumstances in which appeals against banding can be made and are restricted to:

- An increase in the property value resulting from building work
- A decrease in the property value due to the demolition of any part of the property, any changes in the physical state of the local area or an adaptation for use by someone with a disability
- A change in the balance between domestic and business use of your property

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of Council Tax. If your appeal is successful we will refund any overpaid Council Tax.

Next Step

A council tax payer can ask the Valuation Office Agency to review their council tax band or can make a proposal to formally challenge their band. Council Tax payers need to provide reasons why they believe their banding is incorrect. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/voa/contact or call 0300 050 1501

Appeals against your council tax liability

If you disagree with some aspect of a council tax bill because you do not think you are liable for the council tax for that dwelling, or you think an exemption, or a discount should be applied, you can appeal. You can also appeal if you disagree with the amount of council tax support you have been awarded.

You should appeal to the Council in the first instance. If you don’t get a response or continue to dispute the decision after the Council has responded, you have the right to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.
Please contact the Council Tax Helpline for more details on 01452 396495.

Appeals can be made:

- **Online at:** [www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk](http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk)
- **By telephone:** 0300 123 2035
- **By email:** vtwhitechapel@vts.gsi.gov.uk
- **In writing to:** Valuation Tribunal, Second Floor, 120 Leman Street, London, E1 8EU

**How to Pay**

**Direct Debit**

You pay council tax in 10 monthly instalments
The easiest way to pay is by Direct Debit. For Local Authorities, this payment method is the most cost-efficient way to collect council tax. For bill payers, paying this way is convenient and offers peace of mind that council tax payments won’t be forgotten or missed, plus payments are protected by the Direct Debit Guarantee

Pay the easy way by direct debit
call 01452 396495
to provide your bank details
Pay Online
Pay by debit or credit card using the Council’s 24 hour secure internet service at www.gloucester.gov.uk/payments/

Pay using cash at a Post Office and PayPoint Outlet
It’s now even easier to pay your council tax. You can pay at any Post Office or PayPoint outlet by taking a council tax document that displays your personal barcode, for example a bill or reminder notice

You can pay at one of 30 PayPoint locations around the City – to find your nearest one visit https://consumer.paypoint.com/

To find your close Post Office visit www.postoffice.co.uk/branchfinder1

If you wish to pay by cheque please make payable to Gloucester City Council and post to Gloucester City Council Revenues, PO Box 2017, Pershore, WR10 9BJ – please write your reference number on the back of the cheque

The Council is no longer able to accept cash payments in the office
Unable to pay?
Your council tax should be paid as requested on your bill otherwise recovery action may be taken which could incur additional costs to you. If you are finding it difficult to pay your council tax please contact us quickly on 01452 396495 or email us at revenues@gloucester.gov.uk so we can help you. We may be able to spread your monthly instalments over 12 months instead of 10 months.

Help to pay your council tax
Council Tax support helps people on low income or no income to pay their council tax. It is means tested so the amount you get depends on household income and/or savings and the amount of council tax you are due to pay. If you claim Universal Credit you must apply to the council for council tax support

For further information contact the benefits helpline on 01452 396440 or email benefits@gloucester.gov.uk or visit the website at www.gloucester.gov.uk/council-tax-benefits/

eBilling
sign up to receive your council tax bill via email by visiting our website at https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/media/2410/e-billing-application-form.pdf or email us at revenues@gloucester.gov.uk

Discounts

Disabled persons reductions
Your bill may be reduced if your home has certain features which are essential, or of major importance, to an adult or child with a disability who lives in the property. These features are:

- A room (other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet) which is used by the disabled person (e.g. a room used for dialysis equipment). Rearranging rooms used for their normal purpose (e.g. a bedroom on the ground floor) would not qualify
- An additional bathroom or kitchen required for the use of the disabled person
- Sufficient floor space for a wheelchair
If you qualify we will treat your property as if it is in the valuation band below, e.g. if your property is in band C you will pay the council tax for band B. You can still get a reduction if your property is in band A.

Second Homes
Properties that are furnished but not occupied as anyone’s main home are classed as second homes. No discount is awarded.

Properties undergoing major repair
Unoccupied and unfurnished properties undergoing structural alteration or major repair are subject to a 25% discount for a maximum period of 12 months.

Unoccupied & unfurnished properties
Properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished will be granted a 25% discount for up to 6 months from the date the furniture is removed. The full charge will then be payable.

Discounts for annexes
From April 2014 a 50% discount may apply where an annexe is occupied by a relative of the council tax payer of the main property, or where it is used as part of the main property. An exemption already exists for annexes occupied by elderly or disabled relatives.

Long term empty properties
No discount is awarded in respect of properties which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 6 months. The full council tax is charged until the property has been empty for 2 years. The Empty Homes Premium will then apply, and the council tax will be 150%.

Discounts
If you live alone your bill will be reduced by 25%.
If you, or someone living with you fits into one of the categories below and there are no other adults living in the property, you could also get a reduction;

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees
- 18-19 year old (at, or just left, school)
- Hospital/hospice patient (permanent)
- Residential care/nursing home resident
- Persons over 18 in receipt of child benefit
- Severely mentally impaired
- Hostel/night shelter resident
- Member of religious communities
- Full time carer (excluding those caring for husband, wife, partner or child)
- Persons in detention
- Members of International Headquarters and Defence Organisations
- Visiting forces
- Partners of students who are not British
- diplomats

In extreme circumstances the council has discretionary powers to reduce the council tax payable in respect of individual cases.

Exemptions

Is your property exempt?

Some properties – both occupied and unoccupied are exempt from council tax. Please contact us for more information if your property falls into one of these categories.

Property unoccupied and:

- B it is owned by, and was last occupied for the purpose of a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- D the owner/tenant is in prison
- E the owner/tenant is receiving personal care permanently in a hospital or home
- F the person liable to pay council tax has died, the property has remained unoccupied since the date of death and probate has not been granted. In some circumstances the exemption may continue for six months after probate
- G it is forbidden by law to occupy
- H it is awaiting occupation by a minister of religion
- I the owner/tenant is living elsewhere to receive personal care
- J the owner/tenant is living elsewhere to provide personal care to another person
- K the owner/tenant has moved to become a student
- L it has been repossessed by a mortgage lender
• Q it is the responsibility of a bankrupt’s trustee
• R it compromises a pitch or mooring unoccupied by a caravan or boat
• T it compromises a self-contained unit which cannot be let separately from the main property without breaching planning conditions

Property occupied by:
• M Students in hall of residence
• N other qualifying full-time students
• Members of the armed forces in MOD accommodation
• P members and dependants of visiting forces
• S person(s) under the age of 18
• U the severely mentally impaired
• V people with diplomatic privilege or immunity

Contact 01452 396495 for more details