Your Council Tax

Why has the amount I pay changed?

Our population is changing and growing.
Demand for our services is increasing every year.
Council income has not kept up with rising demand.

Help in paying your Council Tax

1. You may be able to get help in paying your Council Tax if you are on a low income. For households with children there is now more support available to you. You may be entitled to relief from the increase to properties banded E-H. The relief has been introduced to meet the changes made by Scottish Government and does not include the 3% increase across all bands. The relief can apply where you have less than £16,000 in savings and your income is below:
   - £321 per week for a single adult with no children
   - £479 per week for all other households.

   See the back of your bill or go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/claimbenefits for more information and to apply for Council Tax Reduction.

2. You also may be able to get a discount or an exemption, for example if you are the only person living in your property, or live with someone who is a student or severely mentally impaired. For a full list of reductions and how to apply, see the back of your bill or go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltax

3. Direct debit – you can spread your payments over 12 months rather than 10: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltaxdirectdebit

Working with you on changes to Council services

Over the past three years we have been seeking your views on what’s important to you and how we should spend money and change services. We will continue to work with communities as we reshape and redevelop services.

Your feedback does make a difference to Council decisions. You have told us that we should protect education, care for older people, culture and services for vulnerable children and adults.

In addition to this, the Scottish Government has increased the level of Council Tax across Scotland for all properties in bands E to H.

Where does your Council spend money on?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>2016-17 net revenue budget</th>
<th>Annual budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental services (including recycling, waste and street cleaning)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>£266.3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads and transport, planning and other</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing services (excluding Housing Revenue Account)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture, events and related services</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>£347.1m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult and children health and social care services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-domestic rates

All properties liable for business rates are being revalued from 1 April 2017. More information including details of the national business rate is available at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/yourbusinessrates

Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltaxcharges for more details of how money is raised and spent on local services.
Your Council Tax 2017/18

How to pay and further information

• For Council Tax and benefits
  www.edinburgh.gov.uk/yourcounciltax
  www.edinburgh.gov.uk/benefits
  0131 608 1111

• For business rates
  www.edinburgh.gov.uk/yourbusinessrates
  0131 469 5746

• Water and sewerage charges
  www.scottishwater.co.uk
  0800 0778 778

Write to: The City of Edinburgh Council, Income and Benefits
  PO Box 12331, Edinburgh EH7 9DN

Visit us: North East – 101 Niddrie Mains Road EH16 4DS
  South East – 40 Captain’s Road EH17 8HQ
  South West – 10 Westside Plaza EH14 2ST
  North West – 8 West Pilton Gardens EH4 4DP,
  – 81 Drum Brae Drive EH4 7FE

Phone: Freephone payment line: 0800 783 1719

Save time and paper
Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/paperless
to switch to paperless Council Tax bills.

We’re a bit like a bank, but without the bankers.

With us you can save, borrow, use online banking and
even take out your mortgage. But unlike most banks, we’re
completely owned by our members – people like you – rather
than shareholders. So if you’re looking for a bank, without the
bankers, join us today.

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*Terms and conditions apply

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www.capitalcreditunion.com 0131 225 9901

We’ve made it easier and quicker for you to get help 24/7,
where and when you need it.
So if you need to pay, report or request anything, just type

www.edinburgh.gov.uk

or tweet us @edinhelp
What you pay for your water and waste water services in 2017/18

Always working so the cycle never stops

Scottish Water
Trusted to serve Scotland
We are always working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to keep the water cycle running smoothly and your charges low.

Each year we invest every penny we collect through customer charges to run and improve your water and waste water services.

We maintain and are improving 1,851 waste water treatment works and 31,621 miles of sewers to help protect the natural environment in your area.

On average, we carry out 1 quality test every 2 minutes† on the tap water we supply, to make sure that you enjoy your supply of Scottish drinking water.

†This is based on 2015 figures, the most up to date figures available at time of going to print.

You get all this for less than £1 a day for the average household.*

*The average household is between Council Tax Band B and Band C and has a combined bill of less than £1 a day. Individual Water Supply and Waste Water Collection charges are less than £1 a day for all households (except for the individual Waste Water Collection charges for Band G households and the individual Water Supply and Waste Water Collection charges for Band H households).
Promising to give you value for money

We are always working hard so the cycle never stops. We continue to successfully deliver a quality service to you, our customers. The quality of your Scottish drinking water has never been better, and we work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to deliver these essential services to you and provide you with the best value for money.

To help us make sure that we can continue to provide you with at least the same high levels of service that you currently receive, in 2017/18 the Combined Services charge for the average household will rise by around £6 from the amount last year. At £357, the average Scottish Water bill will still stay lower than the average bill in England and Wales.

Keeping you informed

You can keep up to date about our work or service updates, such as having no water supply, in your area:

Visit: www.scottishwater.co.uk/updates

Text (SMS): If you would like to receive free texts (SMS)* please text the word ‘Update’ with your postcode to 82228
(Example text: Update EH10 6XH).

*For more info and T&Cs visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/textterms

Our services – your rights

You, our customers, are at the heart of everything we do.

We always aim to deliver on our promises and do what we say, when we say we will do it. It is important that we aim to provide you with a great customer experience and we are always looking at how we can improve the service and the value that we provide.

We want you to be aware of our promises and your rights under our service standards. To find out more, visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/yourrights
Doing the right thing, for your home and for Scotland

There are lots of simple but effective things we can all do to help save your drains and keep the water cycle running smoothly. These will help protect your home, your local community and the rivers, burns, coastal waters and beaches in your area:

- Put all wipes and other bathroom waste in the bin, not down the toilet;
- Recycle or put all cooled fat, oil and grease in the bin, not down the sink^; and
- Use water wisely, turn off the tap while you brush your teeth.

^ Please check with your local Council/waste contractor for info on how to recycle or dispose of used fat, oil and grease in your area.

To find out more, visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/cycle

Who regulates the water industry in Scotland?

The Water Industry Commission for Scotland is the economic regulator of the water industry in Scotland, approving the levels we charge you. The Commission can be contacted at www.watercommission.co.uk

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) represents the interests of consumers within Scotland’s water industry. CAS can be contacted on 03454 04 05 06 or at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

The Drinking Water Quality Regulator (DWQR) monitors and regulates the quality of the water we deliver to you. The DWQR can be contacted at www.dwqr.scot

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) sets standards for and monitors waste water and other discharges into local streams, rivers and the sea. SEPA can be contacted at www.sepa.org.uk
Household charges 2017/18

Your charges are based on the Council Tax Band for your home. For 2017/18 the Combined Services charge for the average household will rise by 1.6% from what you paid last year. The table below tells you what your charges are from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council Tax Band</th>
<th>Water Supply</th>
<th>Waste Water Collection</th>
<th>Combined Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band A</td>
<td>£132.84</td>
<td>£154.20</td>
<td>£287.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band B</td>
<td>£154.98</td>
<td>£179.90</td>
<td>£334.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band C</td>
<td>£177.12</td>
<td>£205.60</td>
<td>£382.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band D</td>
<td>£199.26</td>
<td>£231.30</td>
<td>£430.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band E</td>
<td>£243.54</td>
<td>£282.70</td>
<td>£526.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band F</td>
<td>£287.82</td>
<td>£334.10</td>
<td>£621.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band G</td>
<td>£332.10</td>
<td>£385.50</td>
<td>£717.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band H</td>
<td>£398.52</td>
<td>£462.60</td>
<td>£861.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These charges apply to every household which has a connection to the public water supply, the public waste water network, or both.

Your water and waste water charges will be shown on your Council Tax bill, **even if you receive Council Tax Reduction.** Some Council Tax exemptions and discounts will also apply to these charges, such as single occupancy or if you are a student.

If your property has been altered to meet the needs of a disabled person, you may be entitled to a Disabled Banding Reduction on the charges you pay for your property.

Your local Council bills and collects these charges on our behalf and you can find details of how to pay on your Council Tax bill. Please contact your local Council for more information and help with payment options.

**Important:** If you receive Council Tax Reduction you must still pay a water and waste water charge for the services that you have at your home. However, you will receive a reduction of up to 25% on the charges shown in the table above.
Keeping up to date and getting in touch

We are always working so the cycle never stops – find out more about Scottish Water, our charges, our customer charter and keep up to date with what we are doing in your area:

Visit

www.scottishwater.co.uk

Follow us

facebook.com/scottishwater
@scottish_water

Email

customer.services@scottishwater.co.uk

Call

Customer Helpline free 24/7
0800 0778778

Alternative formats of this leaflet can be made available free of charge. For information on Braille, large print, audio and a variety of languages, please call our Customer Helpline.

If you have a disability, medical condition or other reason where you may need additional assistance from Scottish Water then please contact us and we can add your name, address and requirements to our confidential Additional Support Register.

We record all calls for quality and training purposes.