

# THE 53 WEEK YEAR: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## **What if I pay by monthly Direct Debit?**

If you pay by Direct Debit you don't need to do anything. We will do this calculation for you and automatically adjust your payments accordingly.

## **What if I pay by monthly standing order?**

If you pay by standing order then you need to make an adjustment to your monthly payments yourself.

To calculate how much rent you should be paying each month, multiply your weekly rent amount by 53 and then divide it by 12.

For example, if your rent was £80 per week you would use the following calculation:

$$£80 \times 53 \div 12 = £353.33$$

Once you've calculated your monthly payments, contact your bank to update your standing order.

## **What if I pay by a monthly card payment?**

If you pay by card each month you'll also need to make an adjustment to your monthly payments.

Calculate your new monthly rent payment in the same way outlined above (your weekly rent x 53 ÷ 12).

## **I pay monthly - my rent has gone down but my payments have increased. Why?**

You'll have noticed a slight increase in the amount you pay because there are 53 rent charging weeks in 2019/20 instead of the usual 52.

## **Why is there a change this year?**

There are 52 weeks in a normal year, meaning 52 weekly charges. However, every five to six years, there are 53 Mondays in a year instead. 2019/20 is one of those years.

## **What happens if I have non-charging weeks?**

Your non-charging weeks will still apply, but this year you will have one more weekly rent charge than normal.

For example, if you have two non-charging weeks and as such you're normally charged rent 50 times each year, this year you will have 51 rent-charging weeks..

## **How do I know what my weekly rent is?**

We recently wrote to you detailing your new rent and service charges for the next financial year, starting from 1 April 2019.

If you haven't received this, or you're unsure about anything, please contact us on 0300 555 0600.

## **What if I pay weekly?**

There is no change. You will pay your new weekly rent from 1 April in advance every Monday.

## **What if I claim Universal Credit?**

If you receive Universal Credit you should be aware that this is currently calculated on a 52 week basis. However, this may change.

We are monitoring the government's response to this issue and will let you know if there is a change.

Unless the rules are changed before 1 April, the only way to avoid falling into arrears is by paying a little extra each week to ensure your rent is covered.

If you would like any support with budgeting or other money advice, please email our Financial Inclusion team at [FinancialInclusionTeam@onward.co.uk](mailto:FinancialInclusionTeam@onward.co.uk) or call 0300 555 0600

## **What if I claim Housing Benefit?**

If you are in receipt of housing benefit you don't need to do anything, as this will be covered.