

You can let us know online 24/7 if your circumstances have changed or if you have moved address by setting up a council tax account: www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/CouncilTaxOnline

Council tax will not be charged for **unoccupied properties:**

- owned by a charity (allowed for up to six months)
- left empty by someone who has gone to prison or has been detained under the Mental Health Act
- previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care
- waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted
- empty because occupation is forbidden by law
- waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion
- left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness
- left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person
- owned by a student and last occupied by a student
- subject to a Repossession Order
- the responsibility of a bankrupt person's trustee
- a site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring
- unable to let separately because it is linked to, or in the grounds of, another property.

Empty Properties

If you live in a job-related property you may be eligible for a reduction of 50% on your second home. You can find further information about empty properties on our website.

Empty Property Premium

Long term empty properties which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished will be subject to the following premiums:

Empty for more than 12 months 100%
Empty for more than 5 years 200%
Empty for more than 10 years 300%.
You can find further information about the empty premium on our website.

Second Home Premium

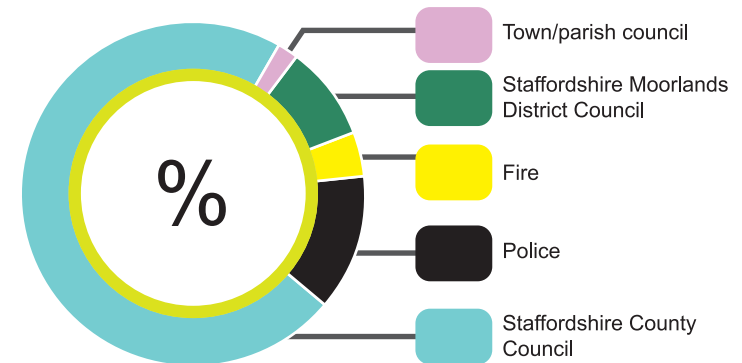
From 1 April 2025 properties that are furnished but where no-one lives as their sole or main residence will be subject to a 100% premium. Exceptions to premiums are listed on our website

Appeals

You can contact us if you don't think you should be paying council tax because, for example, you don't live in or own the property or you believe it to be exempt. You should continue to pay as normal until a decision is made and a refund will be made if you are successful.

Where your Council Tax goes 2025-26

We collect council tax on behalf of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue and your town or parish council where you live.



Set up a council tax account at www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/CouncilTaxOnline to view your bills and documents 24/7 and notify us of any changes



www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/CouncilTaxExplained

Write to: Income Team, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, PO Box 136, Buxton, SK17 1AQ

Email: revenues@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Telephone: Local Taxation 0345 605 3011
National Benefit Fraud Hotline 0800 854 4400

Facebook: @StaffsMoorlands
X: @StaffMoorlandDC



Council tax is due in monthly instalments and the easiest ways to pay are by direct debit or online via our website. You can also pay by telephone with a credit/debit card or at a Post Office or specified PayPoint outlet with a payment card issued by us. More information about paying your council tax can be found at www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/payments

Council tax is based on two or more adults living in a property. There is one charge for each property, whether it is owned or rented, and each property has been placed in one of eight bands by the Valuation Office Agency according to its value on the open market on 1 April 1991.

A full list of valuation bands is available at www.vo.gov.uk. If you think your band may be wrong you can appeal. You can find further information on how to appeal on the website or by calling the Valuation Office on 03000 501501. If you do submit an appeal, you will still need to pay your council tax until a decision has been made.

Discounts and Exemptions

People in the following groups are not counted and they will be disregarded for council tax if they fall into one of the following categories:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices and foreign language assistants
- Young people for whom child benefit is payable and 18/19 year-olds who have just left school or college
- Patients resident in hospital or residential care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people (this includes Alzheimer's and dementia)
- People in certain hostels or night shelters
- Low paid care workers usually working for a charity
- People caring for a person with a disability who is **not** a spouse, partner or child under 18
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces and certain international institutions
- Foreign diplomats
- Residents under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

If you live alone you are entitled to a discount of 25% known as **Single Person Discount**. Please let us know if someone moves in with you. Eligibility is reviewed on a regular basis. If you have been granted a reduction and have a change in circumstances you must tell the Council within 21 days, failure to do so may result in a penalty of £70.

In exceptional circumstances the Council will consider applications for local discretionary discounts based on individual circumstances, for example where the council tax payer suddenly finds that they are suffering financial hardship, or where a property has been flooded which means it cannot be currently occupied. Evidence will be required to support your application, usually in the form of a completed income and expenditure form.

If you or someone living with you are disabled and use a wheelchair indoors, or require an additional bathroom, kitchen, or a room to meet the needs of your disability, you could be entitled to a **Disabled Banding Reduction**. If a reduction is granted, your bill will be based on the valuation band below your property.

There's more information about discounts, exemptions and benefits on our website and you can also apply online.

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/discounts_exemptions

Council Tax Reduction

If you are unemployed or on a low income you may be able to claim **Council Tax Reduction**. More information can be found at www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/Help-Paying-CouncilTax

Exempt Properties

Council tax is not charged for some properties including those where:

- All residents are students
- They are used for armed forces accommodation
- They are lived in by members of visiting forces
- All residents are under the age of 18
- All residents are severely mentally impaired
- At least one person is a foreign diplomat
- It is an annexe occupied by a dependant relative

If part of your home is self contained (a 'granny flat' or annexe) and lived in by a relative, your bill will be reduced by 50%. This is on top of any other discount you or your relative may be entitled to, so for example, if your adult son is living in the annexe on his own he will be liable for council tax and will be entitled to a 25% single person discount as well as the 50% annexe discount.

