Who is a non-dependant?
A non-dependant is someone aged 18 years or over who lives with you. It does not include someone living in your home who has a legally enforceable agreement to pay rent to you or your landlord. Examples of a non-dependant would be a son, a daughter or elderly relative.

How does a non-dependant affect my benefit payment?
If they live in your home, we normally have to reduce the amount of benefit you get. This is called a non-dependant deduction.

How much are non-dependant deductions?
The amount of deduction made depends on how much gross income your non-dependant has and whether they are working over 16 hours a week. By gross income we mean all the money they get including earnings (before tax and National Insurance is deducted), social security benefits and interest paid on savings. We will need to see original proof of the non-dependant’s income and capital, for example pay slips and savings pass books. If you don’t show us original proof (i.e. Not photocopies), we will deduct the maximum allowed. Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment don’t count as income. The non-dependant deductions are set by government and change every April. See the table showing the current deduction levels.

Non-dependent couples
If the non-dependants living in your home are married to each other or living together as a couple, we add their incomes together and make one deduction from your benefit.

Joint tenant or joint owner
If you share your home with a joint tenant or joint owner and a non-dependant lives in the home with both of you, we will take only half the normal non-dependant deduction off your benefit.

When is a non-dependant deduction not made?
Deductions are not made if you or your partner are:
- Registered blind;
- Receiving Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance (care component) or Personal Independence Payment (daily living component)

Deductions are not made from your benefit if the non-dependant adult living with you:
- Is aged under 25 and receiving Income Support or Jobseeker’s Allowance;
- Is aged under 25 and receiving Employment and Support Allowance in the assessment phase (first 13 weeks);
- Receives a Youth Training Allowance;
- Has been a hospital in-patient for more than 52 weeks;
- Is a prisoner;
- Is a student (although deductions will be made if they work during the summer vacation);
- Usually lives elsewhere;
- Receives Pension Credit.

Deferred deductions
Special rules apply for existing cases (not new claims) when the claimant or partner is aged 65 or over, and
- a non-dependant moves into the household or
- the income of an existing non-dependant increases
In these circumstances the non-dependant deduction, or the increased deduction, will not take effect for 26 weeks.