

Pension Credit

As from 6th October 2003, people over the age of 60 can apply for Pension Credit

This allowance replaces Minimum Income Guarantee. If you are already receiving the Minimum Income Guarantee, you do not need to do anything, you will automatically have your benefits updated and reassessed and will hear from the Department of Work and Pensions direct.

If you have made an application in the past and have been outside of the limits set for Minimum Income Guarantee, the new calculations associated with Pension Credit mean that **it is well worth your while finding out more information as you may now find that you do qualify for extra income.**

Even if you do not qualify for Pension Credit, you may still find that you are entitled to a rebate on your Council Tax and that the changes to the system will positively affect other benefits you may already receive or be entitled to. You have until October next year to claim and if you qualify, payments will be backdated to the date of entitlement.

If you would like read a little more about Pension Credit, a leaflet is available on the Pensions Service website, entitled "[Pension Credit – at a Glance](#)"

The Pensions Service website also has a copy of the application form, which you can print out at home and fill in. If you would like to do this, please click on the link [here](#). The local Pensions Service Office is based in Plymouth. If you would like to talk directly with them the telephone number is 0845 60600265.

If you are unable to complete forms without help, there are many places in Torbay where you can either telephone for advice or visit. People in these organisations will be happy to provide you with assistance; places such as:

- Age Concern (01803) 555181. [there is also an information line 0800 009966 and Age Concern produce a fact sheet which they can post out to you]
- Social Services Financial Assessments and Benefits (FAB) team (01803) 208456
- Disability Information Service: Telephone: (01803) 552175
Textphone: (01803) 523981
- Citizens Advice Bureau: Paignton : (01803) 521726
Torquay : (01803) 297799
Brixham : (01803) 854286
- Brixham Does Care Telephone: (01803) 857727