

## Absence from home – timescales for Housing Benefit changes

This table shows you how long you can be away from home for, before Housing Benefit stops being paid.

Please note that there is a difference between being away from home within Great Britain and outside of the country.

<b>Reason for absence</b>	<b>Staying in Great Britain</b>	<b>Outside of Great Britain</b>
A person detained on remand pending trial or sentence upon conviction or as a condition of bail to reside in a dwelling other than their home	52 weeks	4 weeks
A person in a hospital or similar institution as a patient	52 weeks	26 weeks
A person, their partner or dependent child undergoing medical treatment, medically approved convalescence in accommodation other than residential accommodation	52 weeks	26 weeks
A training course	52 weeks	4 weeks
A person who is absent and undertaking medically approved care of a person residing in GB or elsewhere	52 weeks	4 weeks
A person who is caring for a child whose parent or guardian is temporarily absent from the home of that parent or guardian and receiving medically approved care or medical treatment	52 weeks	4 weeks
A person who is receiving medically approved care in accommodation other than residential accommodation	52 weeks	26 weeks
An eligible student	52 weeks	4 weeks
A person who is receiving care in residential accommodation and is not staying on a trial basis to ascertain if the accommodation suits his needs	52 weeks	4 weeks
A person who has left their home through fear of violence	52 weeks	26 weeks
A person who enters residential accommodation on a trial basis to ascertain if it meets their needs with the intention of returning home	52 weeks	4 weeks

A person who is absent from GB in connection with the death of their partner or a child for who he or his partner is responsible, the persons close relative, a close relative of a child or your person for whom the person or persons partner is responsible	13 weeks	4 weeks plus additional 4 weeks if the decision maker considers it unreasonable for the claimant to return home within the first 4 weeks
A member of Her Majesty's forces posted overseas	13 weeks	26 weeks
A mariner	13 weeks	26 weeks
A continental shelf worker	13 weeks	26 weeks
Any other temporary absence eg holiday	13 weeks	4 weeks