

# Your rent - frequently asked questions

### Why has my rent increased?

Your rent is set in line with the terms of your lease. Our rent increases mean that we can continue to maintain and invest in improvements to homes, neighbourhoods and services.

#### How is the rent increase calculated?

For the majority of our customers, rents are set based on the Retail Price Index Figure in September plus 1%. For some customers, the lease will specify that rents can increase by a different amount and in those cases we will have set rents in line with this.

# When will rents go up?

Rents will change from 1st April 2025 for monthly, quarterly, and annual charge accounts. Weekly rents will change from Monday 7th April.

# I claim Universal Credit. Do I need to do anything?

Once you've received the letter confirming your rent charges in February, you will need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) of this via their online portal after the rent increase has been applied. You can do this <u>here</u>.

It is important that you don't do this until your rent has actually changed to make sure there are no issues with receiving your benefits, so you should do this on the day of or the days following your rent changing. If you do not manage your Universal Credit by the online portal, then you will need to contact the DWP by phoning the helpline on **0800 328 5644**.

For support doing this contact our Money Advice team by calling **0300 555 0600** or emailing <u>moneyadviceteam@onward.co.uk</u>.

### I claim Housing Benefit. Do I need to do anything?

If your Housing Benefit is paid directly to you, then you will need to inform Housing Benefit of your rent before 1st April 2025 to make sure you receive the correct payments. To do this you will need to contact your Local Authority and ask to speak to the Housing Benefit department. If your Housing Benefit is paid directly to Onward, you do not need to take any action. Onward will inform Housing Benefit of your new rent.

#### What do I do if I can't afford the increase?

If you think you will struggle to pay your rent, please let us know as soon as you can. Our Money Advice Team is here to help. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit allowance or Housing Benefit and this isn't enough to cover the additional rent increase, we can advise on the options that are available. You can get in touch with a member of the team by calling 0300 555 0600 or by emailing Homeownership-CustomerAccounts@onward.co.uk

### Do I have to change my Direct Debit mandate or Standing Order?

Your Direct Debit will be adjusted automatically by our Customer Accounts Team – you don't have to do anything. We may increase your Direct Debit by an additional amount on top of your usual payments if you are not paying fully in advance.

However, if you make rent payments by Standing Order you will need to contact your bank to amend the amount before 1st April 2025.

### How is the money from rents spent?

Income from rents means that we can continue to manage and improve our customers' homes and invest back into our neighbourhoods. In the last twelve months, for every £100 of rental income we have spent:



If you need any help understanding this document, please give us a call on **0300 555 0600**, send us a message on WhatsApp to **07793 795882**, or send an email to **customerservices@onward.co.uk**.

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu, zadzwoń do nas na numer 0300 555 0600, wyślij nam wiadomość na WhatsApp na numer 07793 795882 lub wyślij e-mail na adres <u>customerservices@onward.co.uk</u>.

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى أي مساعدة في فهم هذه الوثيقة، فيرجى الاتصال بنا على 0600 555 0300، أو أرسل رسالة إلينا على customerservices@onward.co.uk.

এই নথিটি বুঝতে আপনার যদি কোনো সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের 0300 555 0600 নম্বরে একটি কল করুন, আমাদের হোয়াটসঅ্যাপ -এ 07793 795882 নম্বরে একটি বার্তা পাঠান বা customerservices@onward.co.uk.

اگر برای درک این سند به کمک نیاز دارید، لطفاً با ما با شماره 03005550600 تماس بگیرید، از طریق واتساپ به customerservices@onward.co.uk.

如果您在理解本文件时需要任何帮助,请致电 0300 555 0600,通过 WhatsApp 发送信息至 07793 795882,或发送电子邮件至 customerservices@onward.co.uk。

Haddii aad u baahan tahay in lagaa caawiyo fahamka dokumentigan, fadlan naga soo wac lambarkan 0300 555 0600, farriin noogu soo dir lambarkan WhatsApp-ta 07793 795882, ama email noogu soo dir <u>customerservices@onward.co.uk</u>.

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے میں کسی مدد کی ضرورت ہے، تو براہ کرم ہمیں 0300 555 0300 پر کال کریں۔ customerservices@onward.co.uk.

Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour comprendre ce document, appelez-nous au 0300 555 0600, envoyez-nous un message sur WhatsApp au 07793 795882, ou envoyez un e-mail à customerservices@onward.co.uk.

ئەگەر پێويستت بە يارمەتى ھەيە بۆ تێگەيشتن لەم بەڵگەنامەيە، تكايە پەيوەندىمان پێوە بكە بە ژمارە تەلەفۆنى 03005550600 لە واتسئەپ پەيامێكمان بۆ بنێرە بە ژمارە تەلەفۆنى 07793795882 يان ئىمەيڵێكمان بۆ بنێرە بۆ customerservices@onward.co.uk.

Se necessitar de ajuda para compreender este documento, contacte-nos para o número 0300 555 0600, envie-nos uma mensagem para o WhatsApp para o número 07793 795882 ou envie um email para <u>customerservices@onward.co.uk</u>.