



Household Charges

The Legislation and General Information

What is the household charge?

The EU/IMF Programme of Financial Support for Ireland commits the Government to the introduction of a property tax for 2012. The Programme reflects the need, in the context of the State's overall financial position, to put the funding of locally delivered services on a sound financial footing, improve accountability and better align the cost of providing services with the demand for such services.

In light of the complex issues involved, a property tax, requiring a comprehensive property valuation system, would take time to introduce and accordingly, to meet the requirements in the EU/IMF Programme, the Government decided to introduce a household charge in 2012. The household charge is an interim measure and proposals for a full property tax will be a matter for consideration by the Government in due course.

The Household Charge is an annual charge introduced by the Local Government (Household Charge) Act 2011 which is payable by owners of residential property. It is a matter for owners of residential property to register and pay the household charge after the 1st of January.

How much is the charge?

The Household Charge is €100 per residential property

How can I pay the household charge?

An online system - www.householdcharge.ie - is in place to enable home owners to pay the household charge by credit card/debit card. In addition, home owners can make the payment by cheque, postal order, etc through the post to the Local Government Management Agency who operate a bureau and administers the charge on a shared service/agency basis for all local authorities. In addition, payment will be accepted in the offices of your County/City Council.

Does the charge apply to residential property outside of Ireland?

No. The charge only applies to residential properties situated in the State.

What types of properties are liable for the household charge?

Owners of residential property on the liability date of 1st of January 2012, subject to a limited number of exemptions and waivers set out below, are liable to pay the household charge by 31st of March.

What are the exemptions from liability to pay the household charge?

The exemptions are as follows:

- Residential properties that are part of the trading stock of a business and have not been sold or been the source of any income since construction,
- Residential property vested in a Minister of the Government or the Health Service Executive,
- Residential property vested in a housing authority, including property where households are purchasing their homes under the Shared Ownership Scheme and where the local authority still retains an ownership stake,
- Voluntary and co-operative housing,

performance through partnership

- Residential property to which commercial rates apply,
- Residential property owned by a charity or comprised in a discretionary trust, and
- Residential property where a person has to leave their house due to long-term mental or physical infirmity (e.g. a person that has moved into a nursing home).
- What are the waivers from payment of the household charge?

The waivers from payment of the household charge are as follows:

- Owners of residential property entitled to mortgage interest supplement
- Owners of residential property located in prescribed unfinished housing estates (see Unfinished Housing Estates section for more detail)

Please note that all waiver claims will be validated. Persons who make false or misleading declarations in making a claim for a waiver will be liable to penalties under the legislation.

Does the household charge apply to those who are paying the €200 charge on Non-Principal Private Residences?

Yes. The household charge applies to residential property generally, including those properties that are liable to the €200 charge on Non-Principal Private Residences.

Is a building divided into flats or bedsits liable for the household charge?

Yes. The household charge is payable by the owner of the building in respect of each unit of residential accommodation. Where a building is divided into a number of flats or bedsits, the charge applies to each flat or bedsit e.g. if the dwelling is divided into four bedsits, four household charges are payable i.e. €100 x 4 = €400.

Is a house let as one unit to a number of occupants liable for the household charge?

Yes, the charge is €100 for the dwelling.

I own a mobile home. Is this liable for the household charge?

No. A mobile home is not liable for the household charge.

What will the household charge finance?

Revenues from the household charge will support the provision of local services. Internationally, local services are administered by local authorities and financed by local service charges. In Ireland, local authorities are responsible for, among other services, fire and emergency services, maintenance and cleaning of streets, street lighting, planning and development services, public parks, libraries, open spaces and leisure facilities, etc. These are essential local services which benefit all members of the public, including business.

By what date must it be paid?

31st of March 2012 or where a person opts to pay the household charge in instalments, the Direct Debit Mandate must be set up by 1st of March 2012.

Can I pay it by instalments?

Yes. The household charge can be paid in four instalments of €25 by direct debit.

Dates for 2012 are as follows:

- Instalment number 1: 13th March 2012
- Instalment number 2: 14th May 2012
- Instalment number 3: 13th July 2012
- Instalment number 4: 10th September 2012

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