

# **Benefits Online Services signup help**

To create your Benefits online service account and choose whether to receive online letters, please follow the instructions below.

If you need help with the steps below, you can contact us via phone or email, <u>click</u> <u>here</u> for details.

To help us resolve the issue more efficiently, please include screen shots of the problem when sending your email.

#### Step 1

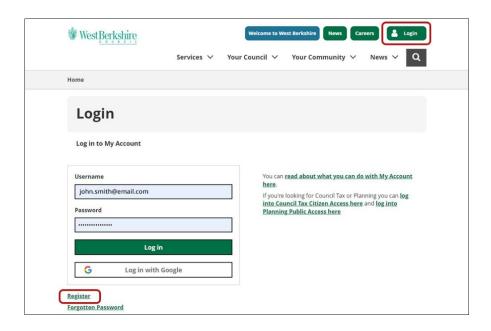
Firstly, you need to <u>login to your West Berkshire Council My Account</u>. If you do not have a My Account, you can register for one (see instructions below).

#### Login

If you already have a My Account, click <u>login</u> and enter your username and password.

If you cannot remember your password, click 'forgotten password', and follow the instructions.

Your username will be the email address that you previously registered with West Berkshire Council My Account.





#### Register

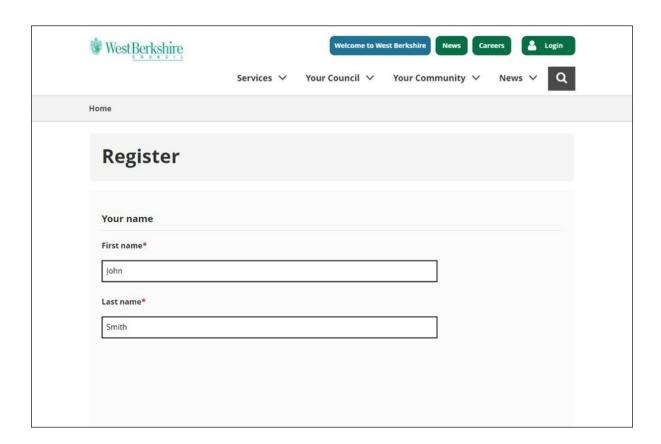
If you have not already have a My Account, click 'register for My Account'.

When registering for a new account, you will need to add your email address first.

Please then check your email. A code will be sent to you to verify your email address and once this is verified you can continue to register.

Add your details, including postcode, home address and telephone numbers, then create your unique password.

Once you have registered your account, you will then receive an email to confirm your registration is complete. Then you will be able to login with your new details and register for Benefits online services.

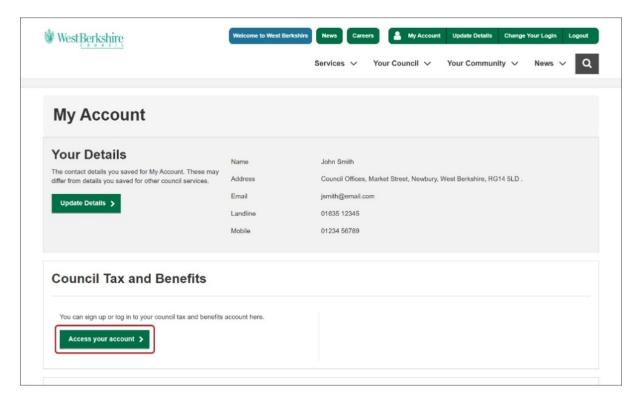




Once logged in, you will see 'My Account'.

Below 'Your Details', you will see 'Council Tax and Benefits'.

Click the link to 'Access your account'. For security reasons, you may be prompted to enter your My Account username and password again.



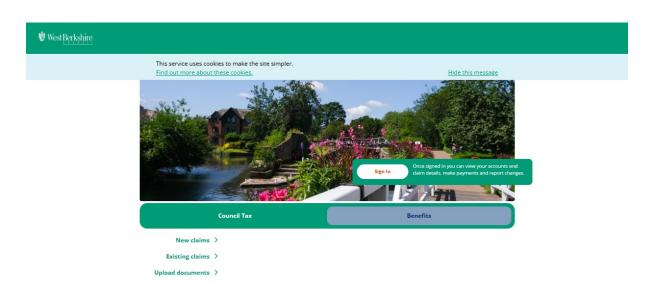


You will now see the 'Online Services Homepage'

You can register for a Benefits online account to:

- Make a new Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction claim
- View an existing claim (view entitlements and payments)
- Register for online letters
- Update your contact details
- Report a change of address
- Upload documents

To register or switch to online letters for an existing claim, click 'Existing Claims', then select the 'Register for online letters' option.



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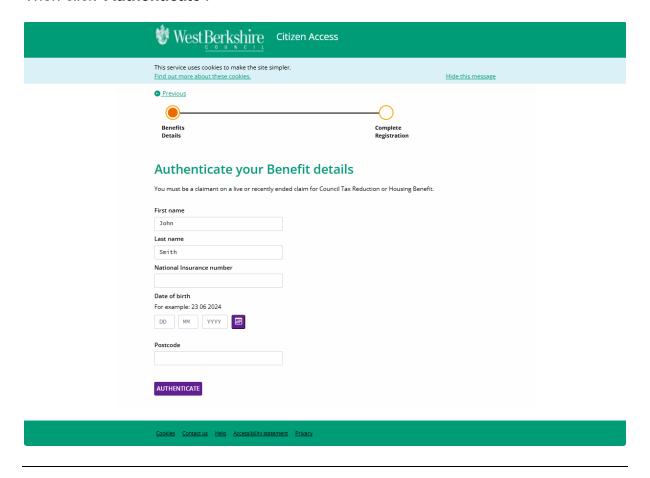
Select the option 'Person'.

Next it will ask you for your first and last name.

Select 'Benefits' as the service

Enter your National Insurance number, date of birth and current postcode. Please include the space E.G RG14 5LD

Then click 'Authenticate'.





Now that you have confirmed your Benefits details, we will ask you to confirm your email address and whether you want to register for online letters.

If you sign up for **online letters**, you'll no longer receive a paper decision notice letter. Instead, you'll receive an email notification when your letter is ready to view.

You can then login to My Account, click the link for Council Tax and Benefits and go into Benefits and Existing claims and then 'View my letters'.

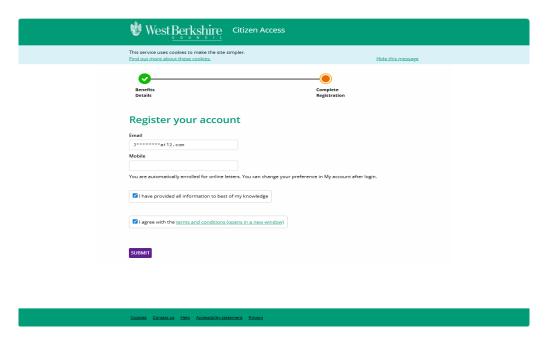
Firstly, confirm the email address you want connected to your online account. If you sign up for paperless decision letters, this will be the email address your enotification letter is sent to.

The **'Email address'** and **'Confirm email address'** boxes should already be filled in with the email address you use for your West Berkshire Council My Account. You can keep this email address or change it if needed - it does not need to be the same as your My Account.

To change it, simply delete the email address in both boxes and type in the email address you want to use, make sure you do not put any spaces before or after the address. This will not change the email address you use to login to My Account.

You will need to check the box by 'I have provided all information to the best of my knowledge'. Then, read the terms and conditions and check the box to confirm your agreement.

Now click on the 'Submit' button





You have now completed your registration process. If you selected **'Yes'** to online letter, when a new notification or entitlement letter is created, you'll receive an email notification.

You can then login to My Account, click through to Council Tax and Benefits and view your letter online.

Click **'Finish'** and this will return you back to the **'Online Services homepage'** area where you can view all your benefits details.

Login or register for My Account