



*The Help and Advice  
You Need!*

## YOUR FINANCES - FACTSHEET

V1, 20/4/2020

### PRIORITY/NON-PRIORITY BILLS

In these uncertain times, you may find yourself with not enough money to pay all your outgoings, because your income has dropped, you have been furloughed, you are waiting for Universal Credit payment to come through.

If you have had a payment holiday from your mortgage/credit card, then this “spare” cash should be used to keep up to date with your other bills. But which bills take priority?

#### **PRIORITY**

Rent  
Mortgage\*  
Secured loans  
Council Tax\*\*  
Gas/Electricity  
TV licence  
Magistrate’s Court Fines  
Child Maintenance  
Over-payment of Benefits\*\*\*

#### **NON-PRIORITY**

Water  
Broadband  
Telephone  
Overdraft  
Personal loans  
Credit cards  
Catalogues  
HP agreements  
Payday loans

The non-priority list is not organisations that you should not pay, but the repercussions of not paying them are less severe than not paying your priority bills. However, in all cases you should speak to the lender, let them know that you are struggling, and see what help they can give you. Especially now, lenders will be sympathetic, providing you keep them up-to-date with your situation.

Have a look at some examples of template letters to creditors which can be adapted and posted. Also, we have produced a comprehensive table of income/expenditure both in paper and spreadsheet format, so that you can see how much money you have left at the end of each month, and what you can afford to pay for your bills. Remember, you should need to factor in such expenses as food, housekeeping, car/travel costs, insurances,

- \* *if you have received a payment holiday, use the surplus money to pay other priority bills*
- \*\* *despite various media stories, Council Tax payments have not been suspended. You should continue to pay as normal. Of course, if your income has dropped, or disappeared completely then you may be eligible for Council Tax Support, but you will need to contact your local council to apply*
- \*\*\* *The DWP Debt Recovery Unit announced in March that while the Coronavirus epidemic was continuing, they were helping people’s hardship by temporarily stopping deductions from current benefits for historic overpayments of benefits—JSA, Income Support, Child and Working Tax Credits. This should be done automatically by the DWP.*

**For more advice, contact us on 0151 662 0059  
(Tuesday and Wednesday—11 am—3 pm, and Thursday, 11 am—1 pm)  
or via email on [enquiries@liverpoolcommunityadvice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@liverpoolcommunityadvice.org.uk)**