

Tax Credit Renewals

Has a large packet from the Tax Credit office landed on your doormat recently? If you claimed Tax Credits last year the enclosed forms should help you renew your claim for the current tax year and check that you received the right payments last year.

For those who receive just the standard amount of Child Tax Credit: £545 per year (£10.48 per week), the renewal process is automatic. You don't need to send back any forms and the Tax Credit will continue to be paid to you, unless you inform the Tax Credit Office of a significant change in your family income or circumstances.

As long as your family income, that of husband and wife, or unmarried partners combined, remains within the buffer zone of £27,756 to £50,000 your Tax Credit claim is not affected. If your income for 2003/04 is outside this band you should inform the Tax Credit office immediately as you could be due more money, or may need to repay excess tax credits paid to you.

If you receive more than £10.48 in Tax Credits per week you will receive a 'reply required review' pack, which must be completed and returned by 30 September 2004, or you could lose money.

Whether or not you have to return a form this year you should check last year's Tax Credit award matches what you claimed for. If you submitted your claim after 6 July 2003 the payments should be backdated by up to three months to the date your family first qualified, but sometimes this didn't happen. If your family make-up changed during 2003/04, perhaps the youngest child left school or a baby was born, your tax credit award should have been altered from the date of change. Check the annual review notice reflects the change, and ring the Tax Credit helpline if it doesn't.

311

Tax Credits helpline: 0845 300 3900