

53 Week Financial Year 2024-2025



Salvation Army Housing Association
Customer Service Centre
53 - 55 Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RZ
Phone: 0800 970 6363
Fax: 01204 375768
Email: info@saha.org.uk

Registered Offices: 2nd Floor, 53-55 Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RZ

What it means from April 2024

There are 53 Mondays in the 2024/25 financial year, which runs from 1 April 2024 until 1 April 2025, with the last Monday on 31 March 2025.

This happens every five to six years because there are 365 days in a year or 366 in a leap year. This breaks down to 52 weeks in a year plus 1 day, or in a leap year 52 weeks plus 2 days. These extra days accumulate to add to a 53rd week to the year.

52 weeks x 7 days = 364 days (one day fewer than a full year or two days fewer than a leap year).

What this means for you

This will impact any of our customers who are on a weekly tenancy agreement or licence.

If you pay your rent weekly, there will be an extra week of rent to pay.

Customers on a weekly tenancy or licence will need to pay for 53 weeks. To work out your monthly rent calculation is weekly current rent X 53 weeks ÷ 12 months equals your monthly current rent.

Universal Credit & Housing Benefit

If you receive Universal Credit, the Department for Work and Pensions will NOT cover the extra week of rent – you will need to pay it.

However, if you are on Housing Benefit you will not be impacted by this, as Housing Benefit will cover this as they pay every week that it is charged.

The DWP only pay up to 52 weeks of rent per year and works out the weekly rent for those on Universal Credit by taking the total yearly amount and dividing it by 52 weeks. For example, £10,400 per year / 52 weeks = £200pw rent.

If you're not happy about Universal Credit not covering the 53rd week

Unfortunately, they have confirmed that they won't pay for the 53rd week. This means you will need to pay for the additional week yourself.

If you don't pay, you'll end up in arrears. However, we would encourage you to write to your local MP. We hope that if enough people highlight the shortfall the Department for Work and Pensions will cover the extra week the next time we have a 53 week financial year.

Our recommendation

We recommend you pay a little bit each week over the year.

For example, if you pay £200 a week for your rent, you could divide this by 53 weeks and pay an additional £3.78 a week for 53 weeks.

If you pay your rent every four weeks, you will need to multiply your weekly rent by 53 then divide it over 13 payments. E.g £200 weekly rent x 53 = £10,600 / 13 = £815.38 rent payment every four weeks.

Payment methods

If you pay by standing order every four weeks you will need to change the amount you pay through your bank at the beginning of the new financial year if you want to split the costs of 13 payments.

If you pay by Direct Debit we will adjust your payments and let you know how much they will be.

Please remember if you have an agreement with us, or a court order in place, you will also need to add that onto your rent amount.

Payment methods

If you're not sure what this means for you, please call Customer Services on 0800 970 6363 or email rent@saha.org.uk so we can help you with the options.