**Inverclyde Council - Cost of Living Award - £350**

Inverclyde Council agreed on 24th February 2022 as part of the 2022/23 council budget additional support of £3m to low income households. The Policy and Resources Exec Sub Committee on 10th March 2022 decided to increase the Inverclyde Council Cost of Living Award from £300 to £350, utilising Scottish Government COVID Economic Recovery Funding.

A one-off payment of £350 will be made to all households in Inverclyde who at 24th February 2022 were in receipt of Council Tax reduction and certain households exempt from paying Council Tax, including those occupied exclusively by students.

**Do I need to claim the £350 Cost of Living Award?**

No. Inverclyde Council has identified everyone who qualifies and will make the payment to them. If you qualify you will receive a letter about the award by the last weekend in March.

**How and when will I receive the award?**

1. I pay council tax by direct debit.

The letter will ask you to accept the payment into the bank account from which you pay Council Tax. You will receive the Inverclyde Council – Cost of Living Award £350 by 29th April.

1. I received a Covid related payment from the council in the last 12 months.

The letter will ask you to accept the payment into the account you received a Covid related payment. You will receive the Inverclyde Council – Cost of Living Award £350 by 29th April.

1. I don’t pay Council Tax by direct debit and I haven’t received a Covid related payment in the last 12 months.

You will be asked to apply online with a copy or photograph of your bank statement. Apply online: [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/costoflivingaward](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/costoflivingaward) If you apply by 15th April you will receive your payment by 29th April.

If it not possible for you to apply online you will be asked to complete and return the application form on the reverse of the letter. The completed form should be returned to the council with a copy of your bank statement. If the application is not received before 9th May, the payment will be credited to your 2022/23 Council Tax account by no later than the start of June.

Your bill will show the payment which will reduce your monthly Council Tax instalments or it may have placed your account into credit. A refund of any credit in your account can be arranged by contacting the service directly by email council.tax@inverclyde.gov.uk or through the Customer Service Centre 01475 717171.

**More than one of us pays Council Tax where I live, will I receive the payment?**

Only one payment will be made in relation to any single dwelling. In cases of joint and several liability, payment will be made to the first named person on the Council Tax bill.

**Scottish Government - Cost of Living Award - £150**

A Cost of Living Award was announced as part of the 2022-23 Scottish Budget. It is an additional support for low income households to help tackle the cost of living crisis. The Cost of Living Award of £150 is provided to:

* Those who receive Council Tax Reduction;
* Council Tax payers who live in a council tax Band A-D property;
* Certain people living in a property exempt from Council Tax.

**Do I need to claim the £150 Cost of Living Award?**

No. Inverclyde Council has identified everyone who qualifies and will make the payment to them.

**More than one of us pays Council Tax where I live, will I receive the payment?**

Only one payment will be made in relation to any single dwelling. In cases of joint and several liability, payment will be made to the first named person on the Council Tax bill.

**When will I receive the Cost of Living Award?**

Your bill will show the payment which will have reduced your monthly Council Tax instalments or it may have placed your account into credit. A refund of any credit in your account can be arranged by contacting the service directly by email council.tax@inverclyde.gov.uk or through the Customer Service Centre 01475 717171.

For more information [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/costofliving)

To find out how Inverclyde Council uses your data visit [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/site-basics/privacy](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/site-basics/privacy)