

The Rent Service (TRS)

The Rent Service (TRS) is an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions. Until 7th April 2008, the TRS determined valuations for local authorities in England, for use in the assessment of claims for Housing Benefit, where the tenant was renting from a private landlord. With effect from 7th April 2008 the majority of Housing Benefit applications in respect of privately rented properties will be paid under the new **Local Housing Allowance (LHA)** scheme. TRS will only make determinations from this date in respect of properties where an element of the rent includes an amount for board (food/meals), or accommodation such as caravans, mobile homes and caravans etc

Housing Benefit Determinations

In making such a determination on the above type of tenancies, the Rent Officer will consider:

- The level of rent
- The rent for similar accommodation/tenancies within the vicinity
- The number of rooms
- The age and number of people living within the property being assessed

The determination will usually run for 12 months unless there is a significant change to the property or the number of people included within the household.

To learn more about The Rent Service and the Local Housing Allowance (LHA), click on the following link to their website:

<http://www.therentservice.gov.uk/>