**What is a debt relief order?**

A debt relief order is one way to deal with your debts if you:

• Owe £30,000 or less

• Do not own your own home

• Do not have other assets or things of value

• Do not have a lot of disposable income

You do not have to make payments towards most types of debt included in your debt relief order and your creditors can’t force you to pay off the debts. A debt relief order usually lasts a year unless your situation improves. When the debt relief order ends, most of your debts will be written off.

**Is a debt relief order right for you?**

1. The cost of a debt relief order is relatively low, £90. You said {{cost\_will}}

2. A debt relief order will affect your credit rating for 6 years, you said {{credit\_will}}

3. A debt relief order might affect applications you make for British citizenship. If you are unsure, then you should get advice from an immigration specialist.

4. You cannot borrow £500 or more without telling the creditor about the debt relief order. You cannot get involved in promoting, managing, or setting up a limited company, or be a company director, without permission from the court

**What debts are covered by a debt relief order?**

Debts that can go into a debt relief order are called qualifying debts. During the debt relief order period creditors can’t ask you for payments, if they do, you don't have to pay them.

Debts are covered by a debt relief order include:

• credit cards,

• overdrafts and loans,

• rent arrears,

• utility bills,

• telephone bills,

• council tax and income tax,

• benefits overpayments,

• hire purchase or conditional sale agreements,

• buy now - pay later agreements,

• bills for services like vets or solicitors,

• debts you owe to friends and family, business debts

**What debts are not covered by a debt relief order?**

Not all debts are covered by a debt relief order.

You will still need to pay:

• Magistrates court fines and confiscation orders relating to criminal activity

• Child support and maintenance

• Student loans

• Social fund loans

• Compensation for death and injury

**How can you get a debt relief order?**

You can only apply for a debt relief order through a specialist debt relief order adviser, also called an 'approved intermediary'. This is usually a skilled debt adviser who has been given permission to complete the forms and give advice on debt relief orders. They will check that you're eligible to apply and that a debt relief order is right for you.

For more information, please visit: [www.gov.uk/guidance/technical-guidance-for-official-receivers/60-debt-relief-orders](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/technical-guidance-for-official-receivers/60-debt-relief-orders)