

Sorting old bills

It's really important that you contact providers in your old property to remove you from the account. This is when it's useful to have the reference numbers from your utility bills, although they may be able to track you down from your personal details and a series of security questions.

The main providers you will need to contact are:

- o Council Tax
- o Water
- o Gas
- o Electricity
- o Phone
- o Internet
- o TV package

Why is this so important?

Sometimes when people leave their partner, their partner then proceeds to build up huge bills if they know the account is in the other persons name. Similarly, council tax has a joint and several liability so if your partner refuses to pay, you will be pursued for the entire amount.

What this means is that you will be pursued for council tax on a joint and several liability account unless you have confirmed that you have moved (remember that a person is liable for council tax on the property that is their sole or main residence). However, complications can arise where the property is owned (this is something called a 'hierarchy of liability' that Citizens Advice can offer detailed expertise on) or alternatively if it's rented solely by you and the tenancy still has time to run.