

## Changes to Financial Support for Travellers on LTA at CERN

SJH 20/10/2017

These changes are required because of the **severe pressures** placed on the UK funding of LHC projects due to the flat-cash status imposed on STFC by BEIS and the worsening exchange rate. We recognise that the latter also affects Travellers who are paid in UK pounds.

We are painfully aware that these changes will have a very **significant effect** on Travellers, and they have not been made lightly.

Nevertheless, some Traveller may not appreciate that things are not necessarily easy in the UK and that the Cost of Living in the Pays de Gex is not that different from the South of England, and probably better than London.

These changes have been **discussed extensively** over a long period with various concerned parties, in particular within STFC (including the UKLO). The changes have been discussed and compromises reached with the LHC Project Leaders, who in turn have discussed with their Group Leaders.

The changes will come into effect from **1 Apr 2018**.

The intention of LTAs is that the “Long-term” in “**Long-term Attachments**” corresponds to a few years (typically 1, 2, 3, ... years) not a lifetime. If people chose to make a “lifestyle” choice, then that is their decision and that cannot necessarily be supported by the projects.

This said, it is recognised that some individuals have been required to stay on LTA for a very long time and there will be some exceptional flexibility in a few cases. All **exceptions** will require the approval of STFC (given by the PPD Director or his Deputy) – this is actually the case for all LTA requests, anyway.

### The Changes

- 1) **Utilities and Local Tax** will no longer be paid on behalf of or reimbursed directly to the Traveller under the Baseline support.  
(See [Guidelines https://www.ppd.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/CERN%20LTA.pdf](https://www.ppd.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/CERN%20LTA.pdf) for Private Leases and Home Ownership.)
- 2) The **NSA** contributions (“with Ties”, first year) have been rounded up to the nearest pound.
- 3) The Rent Contribution for a married Traveller is reduced from 1270 € to 1250 € to bring it in line with common practice.
- 4) A **family rate** for Rent is explicitly given.
- 5) The **Rent Contribution** given will be reduced in later years – see below.
- 6) Nightly Subsistence (NSA) will only be paid for 1 year to Travellers “with ties”. We will not be continuing the **Abatement Scheme**.

In line with the philosophy expressed above, the Rent Contribution made by STFC will be reduced with time. The number of years on LTA will be countered from 1 April 2018, in order to soften the changes for those who have already been on LTA for several years.

### Current Allowances

<b>Current</b>	<b>Ties in UK</b>	<b>No Ties</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>NSA + Rent + Util + Loc Tax</b> <i>UK Tax</i>	<b>Rent</b> <i>UK Tax or NT Tax Code</i>
<b>Year ≥2</b>	<b>Rent + Util + Loc Tax</b> <i>NT Tax Code</i>	<b>Rent</b> <i>NT Tax Code</i>

Proposed Allowances – from 1 Apr 2018

New	Ties in UK	No Ties
Year 1	NSA + Initial Rent Contribution UK Tax	Initial Rent Contribution [1] UK Tax or Fr/CH Tax
Year 2	Initial Rent Contribution Fr/CH Tax	Initial Rent Contribution x R Fr/CH Tax
Year ≥ 3	Initial Rent Contribution x R Fr/CH Tax	Initial Rent Contribution x R Fr/CH Tax
Year ≥ 6	Initial Rent Contribution x Q Fr/CH Tax	Initial Rent Contribution x Q Fr/CH Tax

[1] If already based at CERN, then handle as per second year.

Scaling:

$$R = 0.75$$

$$Q = 0.50$$

	Single	+ Partner	+ Child	+ Child
NSA	£17	£21	£24	£26
Initial Rent Contribution (month)	1000€	1250€	1500€	1500€

Concerning the **Abatement Scheme**, having taken tax advice, STFC considers that it can no longer continue this scheme. We will no longer pay NSA which is abated by the payment of Notional Tax. It is the expectation of STFC that Travellers will be paying tax in either the UK or France or Switzerland. **Whatever, the Traveller is wholly responsible for arranging his or her own tax affairs with HMRC and the Local Tax Authorities. The Traveller must contact the Local Tax Authorities in France or Switzerland.**

If asked by Local Tax Authorities what has changed, Travellers can say that they are no longer paying Notional Tax.

Summary of Major Changes for Travellers

Changes	Ties in UK	No Ties
Year 1	Lose Util + Loc Tax	Fr/CH Tax
Year ≥ 2	Reduced Rent Contribution Lose Util + Loc Tax Fr/CH Tax	Reduced Rent Contribution Fr/CH Tax
Year ≥ 6	Very reduced Rent Contribution Lose Util + Loc Tax Fr/CH Tax	Very reduced Rent Contribution Fr/CH Tax