

Frequently Asked Questions

Debtor Applications - Minimal Asset Process (MAP)

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1. What is MAP?

Minimal Asset Process (MAP) is a route into bankruptcy for people with little or no assets who require debt relief. **The requirements are that the debtor:**

- must have had money advice via an approved money adviser, (this does not apply where an entity application is being made),

have been assessed using the common financial tool (CFT) as requiring to make no debtor's contribution, **or**
- has been in receipt of benefits only for a period of at least 6 months ending with the day on which the application is made,

- does not have a single asset valued at more than £1,000,
- does not have a total amount of assets over £2,000 (excluding a vehicle valued up to £3,000 that is reasonably required),
- does not have debts over £17,000,
- has not been bankrupt within 5 years of the date of any new application for bankruptcy (or 10 years if awarded MAP previously).
- does not solely, or jointly own a home, property or land.

2. How much does a debtor application cost?

There is a non-refundable application fee of £90 if applying through the MAP route.

There are no exemptions or waivers for this fee. Applications will not be fully processed until your fee has been paid in full.

2.1 How can I pay for my application?

Payment can be made in full with a single payment or by instalments (please refer to the debtor application or debtor's guide for more details).

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3. What if I do not want to proceed with my application?

If, after submitting your application, you decide that you do not want to proceed with it, you can request AiB withdraws your application. This request should be made as soon as possible by telephoning AiB and then confirming your decision with an email or letter as soon as possible. If AiB have started to process your application then your fee cannot be returned as it will have been used to cover AiB's administration costs. An application cannot be withdrawn after the bankruptcy has been awarded.

4. What happens if AiB reject my application?

If you submit an application through the MAP route but do not qualify (if, for example, your debts are found to be more than £17,000) then AiB will inform you, in writing, of the reason(s) for the rejection. You will be allowed 21 days to provide further evidence to show that you meet the criteria to apply for bankruptcy through another route. The evidence required will be noted on the letter provided by AiB. To proceed with your application for bankruptcy, as well as providing the additional evidence, you must pay a further £110 application fee within the 21 days or your application will be rejected and your original fee of £90 will be retained.

4.1. What happens to the fee I have paid?

If your application has been rejected, your fee will be retained to cover AiB's administration costs. The fee is for the determination of a debtor application, and is paid in all cases, with no waivers or exceptions. We will still be

required to process and adjudicate on your application, despite it being rejected.

4.2. What other debt relief options do I have?

You should seek further information from a qualified money adviser about the options available to you. AiB's publication 'Debtor's Guide' provides information about other debt relief options. **AiB cannot offer you advice.**

5. What if I am unhappy with AiB's decision to reject my application?

If you are not happy with AiB's decision to reject your application you may request a review of that decision. All reviews are undertaken by The Accountant in Bankruptcy's independent review team. A review request must be made within 14 days of the date of AiB's decision to reject your application.

If an application for a review is made, The Accountant must take into account any representations made by the debtor, or any interested party before the expiry of the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the application is made. The Accountant must either confirm or revoke the decision before the expiry of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the application is made.

If, after the independent review, you are still unhappy with the decision, an appeal against The Accountant in Bankruptcy's decision may be submitted to the Sheriff. The appeal must be submitted within 14 days of the review decision being made. The sheriff's decision is final.