

# Income Support Lone Parents by Region and Age of Youngest Child

February 2013

**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions

# Background

Income Support (IS) for Lone Parents is currently available to un-partnered parents, over the age of 16 who have a child under the age of 5 years old and to Lone Parents who qualify for IS for other reasons e.g. caring responsibilities or short-term disability (<https://www.gov.uk/income-support/eligibility>)<sup>1</sup>. The eligibility for this group has changed significantly since 2008 with the age of youngest child entitlement to IS decreasing from 15 in four rollout phases over 4 years. **Table 1** provides a timeline of the phased changes to Lone Parent Obligations (LPO).

**Table 1: Phased rollout of increased Lone Parent Obligations**

Phase	Start Date	End Date	Age of Youngest Child affected
1	24/11/08	24/11/09	15-12
2	26/10/09	26/10/10	11-10
3	25/10/10	21/05/12	9-7
4	21/05/12	18/11/12	6-5

The Department currently produces caseload statistics for Income Support Lone Parents (ISLPs) which can be broken down by several variables including Region and Age of Youngest Child (AYC). These are available at the following link (<http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html>). The current publication aggregates the age of youngest child by groups consistent with the ages affected by each phase of the changes to LPO which is not currently available using the link above.

## Volumes

**Table 2** presents the latest available ISLP caseload figures (February 2012) split by Region and AYC consistent with LPO changes.

### **N.B. The following points should be considered when observing the data presented here**

- There are a number of lone parents with a youngest child over the age of entitlement to IS. These lone parents are entitled to IS for other reasons; these include people with disabilities or people with caring responsibilities.
- The caseload is from February 2012 – this is prior to the most recent phase of Lone Parent Obligations in May 2012. For this reason there are a number of Lone Parents with children aged 5 & 6.

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<sup>1</sup> Benefits are arranged hierarchically. Incapacity Benefits are above Lone Parents in this hierarchy, thus a person who is a lone parent and receives Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance would not be classified as a Lone Parent.

- The numbers of Lone Parents with children aged 5 & 6 cannot be interpreted as the total number of ISLPs impacted by the latest changes to LPO as we are unable to say how many individuals might have left IS before the change.
- The Department is due to publish a full impact assessment of the first two phases of Lone Parent Obligations in Spring/Summer 2013.

**Table 2: Income Support Lone Parents (Caseload) by Government Office Region and Age of youngest Child – February 2012**

Age of Youngest Child	Unknown	Scotland	North East	North West	Yorkshire & the Humber	Wales	West Midlands	East Midlands	East of England	South East	London	South West	Total
<b>0-4*</b>	30	33,190	22,470	55,690	38,550	22,490	43,510	29,500	33,900	46,200	74,330	27,400	<b>427,260</b>
<b>5</b>	0	4,560	2,740	7,250	4,650	2,750	5,620	3,370	4,340	6,100	10,900	3,550	<b>55,840</b>
<b>6</b>	0	3,880	2,240	5,740	3,780	2,260	4,480	2,920	3,610	4,820	9,200	2,860	<b>45,780</b>
<b>7-9</b>	0	1,850	980	2,660	1,570	1,110	2,170	1,280	1,630	2,350	3,900	1,440	<b>20,940</b>
<b>10-11</b>	0	1,090	550	1,570	850	650	1,210	760	980	1,310	2,230	780	<b>11,970</b>
<b>12-15</b>	-	2,040	1,170	2,980	1,770	1,290	2,240	1,410	1,630	2,410	3,990	1,430	<b>22,380</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46,610</b>	<b>30,150</b>	<b>75,890</b>	<b>51,160</b>	<b>30,550</b>	<b>59,230</b>	<b>39,250</b>	<b>46,090</b>	<b>63,190</b>	<b>104,560</b>	<b>37,460</b>	<b>584,170</b>

**Source: February 12 - DWP Information, Governance and Security, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.**

*\*Eligible Lone Parents are entitled to claim Income Support up to 11 weeks prior to due date of their child - these are included here.*

*Data rounded to the nearest 10 (values less than 5 are represented as "-")*

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