

Housing Benefit Circular

Department for Work and Pensions

6th Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA

HB S10/2016

SUBSIDY CIRCULAR

WHO SHOULD READ	All Housing Benefit managers and staff in England, Scotland and Wales. Fraud managers and staff. Officers preparing subsidy claims and estimates
ACTION	For information
SUBJECT	2017/18 Housing Benefit administration subsidy arrangements for English, Scottish and Welsh local authorities

Guidance Manual

The information in this circular does not affect the content of the HB Guidance Manual.

Queries

If you

- **want** extra copies of this circular/copies of previous circulars, **they can be found on the website at** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-benefit-for-local-authorities-subsidy-circulars>
- have any queries about the
 - **technical content of this circular**, contact
Email: hbsubsidy.queries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
 - **distribution of this circular**, contact
housing.correspondenceandpqs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Crown Copyright 2016

Recipients may freely reproduce this circular.

Contents

Para

2017/18 Housing Benefit administration subsidy arrangements for English, Scottish and Welsh local authorities

Introduction	1
Background.....	4
Single Fraud Investigation Service: Recycled Funding 2017/18	7
Universal Credit roll out.....	9
Distribution methodology	10
Payments of subsidy	14
Queries	15
2017/18 LA allocations - England	Annex A
2017/18 LA allocations - Scotland.....	Annex B
2017/18 LA allocations - Wales.....	Annex C

2017/18 Housing Benefit administration subsidy arrangements for English, Scottish and Welsh local authorities

Introduction

1. This circular contains details of the 2017/18 distribution of Housing Benefit (HB) administration subsidy.
2. Provision for the 2017/18 HB administration subsidy arrangements will be made by an Amendment Order to the Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities) Order 1998, which will be subject to consultation with the Local Authority Associations (LAAs) prior to being laid in Parliament.
3. LAA representatives were consulted regarding a number of distribution methodologies. Where LAA representatives could not agree a preference for their country, or no preference was offered, in these circumstances the distribution methodology defaulted to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) recommended methodology.

Background

4. Following the abolition of Council Tax Benefit (CTB) and the introduction of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) in April 2013, the funding baseline for HB/CTB has remained disaggregated. The DWP is responsible for allocating the HB element to LAs with the responsibility for distributing the remaining LCTS element being with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Devolved Administrations to distribute to their respective LAs.
5. The 2017/18 HB administration subsidy allocation by country is:

English LAs - **£201.46 million**

Scottish LAs - **£22.85 million**

Welsh LAs - **£11.63 million**

This funding is calculated by applying a flat rate reduction of 5.55% as an efficiency saving (applied before Universal Credit savings are deducted) to the 2016/17 HB administration subsidy, which is consistent with DWP's baseline funding.

6. DCLG will inform English LAs of their 2017/18 LCTS funding.

Single Fraud Investigation Service: Recycled Funding 2017/18

7. Following the full implementation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service in early 2016, and the transfer of LA HB fraud staff and associated work into DWP, the cost of delivering the service moved to DWP. To reflect this, and as per the reduction in 2016/17, £37 million will be permanently deducted from the total

amount of the HB administration subsidy payable across Great Britain for 2017/18.

8. The detection and prevention of HB fraud, together with HB error, remains the responsibility of the LAs.

Universal Credit roll out

9. For the first time, the 2017/18 HB administration subsidy funding takes into account the Universal Credit roll out schedule. Universal Credit savings of £11.3 million have been deducted from the total amount of the HB administration subsidy for Great Britain.

Distribution methodology

10. In previous years DWP allocated each LA a share of the total HB administration subsidy that reflected its share of the national HB work done, with adjustments that reflected some differences in regional costs along with netting and capping protection used to avoid large fluctuations in the allocations.
11. For 2017/18, allocations are based on the 2016/17 allocation and then applying a flat rate reduction of 5.55%. Allocations are rounded to the nearest pound.
12. Universal Credit savings have been calculated using forecasts to estimate the impact Universal Credit roll out is expected to have on changes in the HB working age caseload at a local level.
13. Individual HB administration subsidy allocations are shown in the Annexes to this circular.

Payment of subsidy

14. Payments of interim administration subsidy will be made in monthly instalments beginning in April 2017. The overall subsidy available to support HB administration costs is cash limited and so there is no provision for any adjustments to be made to individual LA allocations.

Queries

15. If you have a query about the 2017/18 administration subsidy distribution, contact
Email: hbsubsidy.queries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
16. If you have a query about the payment arrangements, please contact Michael Mina: Tel: 01253 337697 Email: michael.mina@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

2017/18 LA allocations - England

LA name	2017/18 DWP HB administration subsidy allocation (£)
Adur	183,052
Allerdale	284,699
Amber Valley	348,425
Arun	484,436
Ashfield	448,288
Ashford	360,117
Aylesbury Vale	434,028
Babergh	211,012
Barking	1,128,250
Barnet	1,543,078
Barnsley	912,822
Barrow-in-Furness	241,171
Basildon	675,211
Basingstoke and Deane	451,397
Bassetlaw	361,861
Bath and N E Somerset	435,537
Bedford	515,878
Bexley	740,895
Birmingham	5,321,716
Blaby	175,109
Blackburn with Darwen	578,475
Blackpool	908,495
Bolsover	271,800
Bolton	1,163,254
Boston	242,884
Bournemouth	806,487
Bracknell Forest	319,090
Bradford	2,070,035
Braintree	419,403
Breckland	384,567
Brent	1,940,205
Brentwood	152,762
Brighton and Hove	1,253,649
Bristol	1,927,558
Broadland	237,829
Bromley	948,380
Bromsgrove	174,684
Broxbourne	305,207
Broxtowe	280,111
Burnley	391,416
Bury	639,664
Calderdale	735,702
Cambridge	369,175
Camden	1,584,288
Cannock Chase	320,049
Canterbury	438,831

Carlisle	338,795
Castle Point	230,472
Central Bedfordshire	617,690
Charnwood	371,049
Chelmsford	411,326
Cheltenham	326,142
Cherwell	356,255
Cheshire East	881,394
Cheshire West and Chester	956,008
Chesterfield	438,722
Chichester	321,566
Chiltern	182,034
Chorley	280,444
Christchurch	134,375
City of London	69,585
Colchester	537,377
Copeland	214,773
Corby	277,648
Cornwall	1,965,659
Cotswold	202,004
Coventry	1,361,251
Craven	103,841
Crawley	466,115
Croydon	1,549,918
Dacorum	467,960
Darlington	450,119
Dartford	284,162
Daventry	153,434
Derby	968,838
Derbyshire Dales	151,235
Doncaster	1,202,803
Dover	393,937
Dudley	1,093,550
Durham	2,266,933
Ealing	1,678,445
East Cambridgeshire	206,609
East Devon	333,723
East Dorset	179,014
East Hampshire	241,367
East Hertfordshire	321,110
East Lindsey	535,983
East Northamptonshire	207,345
East Riding of Yorkshire	914,618
East Staffordshire	321,044
Eastbourne	453,205
Eastleigh	268,791
Eden	105,248
Elmbridge	296,677
Enfield	1,683,868
Epping Forest	339,679
Epsom and Ewell	159,183

Erewash	326,488
Exeter	422,826
Fareham	205,906
Fenland	340,219
Forest Heath	177,025
Forest of Dean	236,730
Fylde	216,114
Gateshead	987,861
Gedling	323,684
Gloucester	458,710
Gosport	329,330
Gravesham	349,440
Great Yarmouth	414,360
Greenwich	1,638,101
Guildford	323,435
Hackney	2,417,257
Halton	509,610
Hambleton	181,230
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,069,126
Harborough	120,494
Haringey	1,806,859
Harlow	398,682
Harrogate	291,515
Harrow	906,897
Hart	127,083
Hartlepool	478,038
Hastings	460,841
Havant	364,921
Havering	734,934
Herefordshire	524,486
Hertsmere	319,157
High Peak	262,265
Hillingdon	1,094,575
Hinckley and Bosworth	208,490
Horsham	267,106
Hounslow	985,000
Huntingdonshire	424,871
Hyndburn	351,860
Ipswich	583,502
Isle of Wight	553,745
Isles of Scilly	2,061
Islington	1,791,185
Kensington and Chelsea	956,194
Kettering	290,326
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	454,764
Kingston upon Hull	1,557,920
Kingston upon Thames	485,122
Kirklees	1,489,184
Knowsley	845,544
Lambeth	2,292,251
Lancaster	383,465

Leeds	3,265,273
Leicester	1,567,731
Lewes	297,635
Lewisham	2,141,087
Lichfield	210,641
Lincoln	436,617
Liverpool	2,955,996
Luton	798,207
Maidstone	428,248
Maldon	144,316
Malvern Hills	195,454
Manchester	2,999,968
Mansfield	420,341
Medway	965,592
Melton	98,719
Mendip	282,460
Merton	686,017
Mid Devon	209,224
Mid Suffolk	187,198
Mid Sussex	265,509
Middlesbrough	867,145
Milton Keynes	1,013,602
Mole Valley	188,368
New Forest	402,036
Newark and Sherwood	322,476
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,327,046
Newcastle-under-Lyme	364,448
Newham	1,845,795
North Devon	314,218
North Dorset	161,639
North East Derbyshire	296,695
North East Lincolnshire	716,695
North Hertfordshire	379,138
North Kesteven	240,162
North Lincolnshire	557,737
North Norfolk	310,558
North Somerset	637,623
North Tyneside	869,964
North Warwickshire	163,894
North West Leicestershire	231,346
Northampton	787,003
Northumberland	1,120,767
Norwich	768,845
Nottingham	1,705,593
Nuneaton and Bedworth	418,982
Oadby and Wigston	106,103
Oldham	891,101
Oxford	515,986
Pendle	355,431
Peterborough	825,521
Plymouth	1,125,588

Poole	432,607
Portsmouth	1,075,740
Preston	532,067
Purbeck	120,323
Reading	679,906
Redbridge	952,594
Redcar and Cleveland	635,713
Redditch	276,166
Reigate and Banstead	334,108
Ribble Valley	96,424
Richmond upon Thames	502,885
Richmondshire	88,532
Rochdale	973,942
Rochford	165,818
Rossendale	224,725
Rother	257,358
Rotherham	1,086,170
Rugby	237,361
Runnymede	198,572
Rushcliffe	193,138
Rushmoor	325,606
Rutland	65,399
Ryedale	117,623
Salford	1,313,528
Sandwell	1,553,141
Scarborough	456,508
Sedgemoor	314,830
Sefton	1,070,349
Selby	187,485
Sevenoaks	275,543
Sheffield	2,351,942
Shepway	427,649
Shropshire	789,499
Slough	603,325
Solihull	567,534
South Bucks	133,892
South Cambridgeshire	276,414
South Derbyshire	205,163
South Gloucestershire	688,100
South Hams	225,607
South Holland	234,447
South Kesteven	358,132
South Lakeland	205,574
South Norfolk	288,393
South Northamptonshire	135,820
South Oxfordshire	259,782
South Ribble	255,705
South Somerset	432,911
South Staffordshire	241,522
South Tyneside	876,348
Southampton	1,010,533

Southend on Sea	749,117
Southwark	1,933,461
Spelthorne	252,375
St Albans	292,654
St Edmundsbury	288,239
St Helens	771,930
Stafford	300,458
Staffordshire Moorlands	201,094
Stevenage	356,489
Stockport	854,772
Stockton on Tees	781,867
Stoke on Trent	1,177,846
Stratford-on-Avon	273,623
Stroud	271,294
Suffolk Coastal	290,804
Sunderland	1,469,551
Surrey Heath	165,872
Sutton	579,293
Swale	497,931
Swindon	597,054
Tameside	998,443
Tamworth	240,555
Tandridge	192,111
Taunton Deane	306,706
Teignbridge	376,939
Telford and Wrekin	722,949
Tendring	595,800
Test Valley	277,694
Tewkesbury	198,177
Thanet	685,583
Three Rivers	223,823
Thurrock	578,624
Tonbridge and Malling	312,746
Torbay	682,191
Torridge	204,434
Tower Hamlets	2,104,891
Trafford	633,497
Tunbridge Wells	302,063
Uttlesford	152,840
Vale of White Horse	250,589
Wakefield	1,412,565
Walsall	1,270,233
Waltham Forest	1,293,622
Wandsworth	1,561,971
Warrington	543,985
Warwick	321,632
Watford	328,217
Waveney	403,251
Waverley	268,485
Wealden	297,148
Wellingborough	267,568

Welwyn Hatfield	379,399
West Berkshire	371,742
West Devon	145,476
West Dorset	278,292
West Lancashire	323,999
West Lindsey	282,171
West Oxfordshire	228,743
West Somerset	118,106
Westminster	1,481,212
Weymouth and Portland	279,195
Wigan	1,192,803
Wiltshire	1,144,776
Winchester	263,445
Windsor and Maidenhead	320,433
Wirral	1,399,070
Woking	236,984
Wokingham	206,763
Wolverhampton	1,283,501
Worcester	336,763
Worthing	331,306
Wychavon	299,920
Wycombe	427,001
Wyre	359,824
Wyre Forest	356,830
York	462,054
Total	201,460,149

2017/18 LA allocations - Scotland

LA name	2017/18 DWP HB administration subsidy allocation (£)
Aberdeen	701,506
Aberdeenshire	631,865
Angus	399,778
Argyll and Bute	347,981
Clackmannanshire	220,399
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	112,718
Dumfries and Galloway	663,498
Dundee	907,284
East Ayrshire	594,856
East Dunbartonshire	239,324
East Lothian	297,150
East Renfrewshire	188,465
Edinburgh	1,915,678
Falkirk	624,280
Fife	1,457,161
Glasgow	4,257,715
Highland	727,427
Inverclyde	419,219
Midlothian	296,876
Moray	275,648
North Ayrshire	747,074
North Lanarkshire	1,612,667
Orkney Islands	66,366
Perth and Kinross	487,058
Renfrewshire	844,104
Scottish Borders	455,750
Shetland Islands	52,847
South Ayrshire	494,166
South Lanarkshire	1,246,148
Stirling	256,687
West Dunbartonshire	580,790
West Lothian	724,647
Total	22,847,132

2017/18 LA allocations - Wales

LA name	2017/18 DWP HB administration subsidy allocation (£)
Blaenau Gwent	368,383
Bridgend	544,566
Caerphilly	719,863
Cardiff	1,449,558
Carmarthenshire	620,619
Ceredigion	221,435
Conwy	419,282
Denbighshire	384,017
Flintshire	417,166
Gwynedd	409,795
Isle of Anglesey	238,889
Merthyr Tydfil	272,777
Monmouthshire	239,482
Neath Port Talbot	630,420
Newport	643,521
Pembrokeshire	423,267
Powys	374,262
Rhondda Cynon Taff	949,904
Swansea	987,383
Torfaen	394,456
Vale of Glamorgan	407,546
Wrexham	514,128
Total	11,630,719