

Freedom of Information request 2013-1624

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Information request

“a. How many households have received housing benefit of £100,000 per annum in each of the last five financial years?

b. In which areas of the United Kingdom did these households reside?”

DWP response

In response to question (a), the following table shows the number of housing benefit recipients in Great Britain with a recorded weekly award of £1,917 or more a week, from November 2008 to November 2012. This would be the equivalent of more than £100,000 a year if they remained on this amount continuously for a year.

Payment information is sourced from the administering local authority once a decision has been made on amount of Housing Benefit awarded. The decision is based on details entered on the Housing Benefit claim form and supporting evidence.

It is possible that errors can occur in the recording of weekly award (both on a form and inputting onto a computer system within the local authority that is processing the claim).

In particular, it is possible that, for some claimant records, the monthly award may be recorded instead of the weekly award. Therefore, care should be taken when looking at high weekly award bands.

Housing Benefit Recipients in Great Britain with a recorded weekly award of £1,917 or more, November 2008 - November 2012

November 2008	-
November 2009	-
November 2010	10
November 2011	10
November 2012	-

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. ‘-’denotes nil or negligible

2. Recipients are at the second Thursday of the month. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and November 2012 is the latest data available.
3. Data is collected on a monthly basis from an electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems and released as the Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% level data (SHBE). This provides the weekly housing benefit amount for each individual household. The annualised amounts are then calculated by multiplying by 52.18.

In response to question (b) all claimant households with housing benefit of £100,000 are in the Central London area.

Please note that the Department does not hold this information for the whole of the United Kingdom as the responsibility for statistics in Northern Ireland lies with the Department for Social Development (DSD).

More information on how to submit a Freedom of Information request to the DSD can be found at:

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/freedom-of-information/requesting-information.htm>