

Freedom of Information request 2013-2553

Received 4th June 2013

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Information request

1. How many households contain one or more people who are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit (more just than the family element)
- Housing Benefit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit

2. Of these households, how many contain three or more children under 19, who usually live in the household, and for whom Child Benefit is also paid?

3. Of these households, how many contain somebody who suffers from and receives treatment for one of the following medical conditions?

- Abdominal stoma
- Crohn's disease
- Desquamation (flaky skin disease)
- Eczema, psoriasis or varicose ulceration (weeping skin disease)
- Incontinence
- Ulcerative colitis

Any other medical condition requiring the use of extra water

DWP response

In response to your questions;

I can confirm that the Department does hold some information on the number of households and claimants who have three or more child dependants and receive at least one of the benefits listed above. However this information is not held centrally for all benefits. We therefore estimate that the cost of **fully** complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 due to the complexity involved in linking together data for each benefit.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department

holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request.

We do hold some information on the medical conditions of Income related Employment and Support Allowance recipients for the following conditions;

- Crohn's Disease
- Eczema
- Psoriasis
- Ulcer(s) Varicose
- Ulcerative Colitis

Information on the following medical conditions for Income related Employment and Support Allowance recipients and for all the medical conditions listed above and below for Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit and Working Tax Credit recipients is not held by the Department.

- Abdominal stoma
- Desquamation (flaky skin disease)
- Incontinence

The information that we do have available within the appropriate limit is given in the tables below. This information shows the number of claimants who have three or more child dependants for each benefit separately. These figures will include claimants who are receiving more than one of the benefits listed above and will have been affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003.

Please note that the figures highlighted marked with “*” for **Income-based Employment and Support Allowance** recipients are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Number of Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-based Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit recipients in Great Britain and abroad and of which those with 3 or more child dependants: November 2012

Benefit	Number of recipients	Of which those with 3 or more child dependants
Income Support	1,189,230	156,270
Income-based Jobseekers Allowance	1,211,500	62,800
Housing Benefit	5,050,400	383,910
Council Tax Benefit	5,896,110	398,920
Income-based Employment and Support Allowance	937,360	45,160*

Sources:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Figures marked with ‘*’ are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.
2. Recipient counts are taken on the last day of the month unless otherwise stated.
3. **The effect of Tax Credits:** The figures in this table are affected by the introduction of CTC in April 2003. CTC replaced the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA (IB)) for those with a Tax Credits award.

Income Support

4. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
5. Income Support replaced Supplementary Benefit in April 1988.
6. From 1988 Lone parents are defined as single people with dependants, not in receipt of a pensioner or disability premium. Prior to this lone parent estimates shown are on a comparable basis, and are lone parents not falling within any of the other statistical groups.
7. Dependant children are those aged under 16, together with young adults aged 16 to under 19 and still in full time education, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.

Income-based JSA

8. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
9. Figures have been taken from 5% sample data and uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
10. Dependant children are those aged under 16, together with young adults aged 16 to under 19 and still in full-time education, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.

Housing / Council Tax Benefit

11. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
12. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
13. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
14. Number of Child Dependents: Only count child dependants resident in the household on the extract date who are less than 20 years old.
15. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and February 2013 is the most recent available.

Income-based ESA

16. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
17. The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date – this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim. Data in this table is for those receiving income-based ESA.
18. Dependant children are those aged under 16, together with young adults aged 16 to under 19 and still in full-time education, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.
19. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008.

Number of Income-based Employment and Support Allowance recipients in Great Britain and abroad with 3 or more child dependants, by medical condition: November 2012

Medical condition	Total	Of which those with 3 or more child dependants
Total	937,360	45,160*
Crohn's Disease	3,050*	170*
Eczema	530*	30*
Psoriasis	800*	60*
Ulcer(s) Varicose	30*	-

Ulcerative Colitis	780*	60*
Other	932,170*	44,850*

Sources:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. “-“ denotes nil or negligible.
2. Figures marked with ‘*’ are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.
3. The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date – this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim. Data in this table is for those receiving Income Based ESA.
4. Dependant children are those aged under16, together with young adults aged 16 to under19 and still in full time education, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.
5. The **Medical Conditions** recorded on the claim form does not itself grant entitlement to benefit. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Employment and Support Allowance on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Work Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. It is also important to note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is reported on in these statistics.
6. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008.

You may be interested to know that the Department published a response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act on the 19th September 2012 titled: **Number of children in out of work benefit households: May 2011** which can be found via the link below (Reference: 2012-3222):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/number-of-children-in-out-of-work-benefit-households-as-at-may-2011-2012-3222>