

Freedom of Information request 838/2013

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Information request

Please supply the specific total of benefits received by each of the households in the London Borough of Croydon that the Department of Work and Pensions has identified as receiving over £500, as per Hansard 134085, 17 December 2012.

Failing this, please supply a detailed breakdown of the weekly reduction of total benefits for each household in Croydon set to lose over £100 per week. Please supply the breakdown in £20 intervals i.e. £120-£140, £140-£160 and so on, up to the highest applicable bracket.

DWP response

Having considered the FOI I can confirm that we do hold this information, however it is exempt from release under section 44 of the Act. Section 44 allows that information prohibited from disclosure is exempt from release. In this case, to provide the level of detail you have requested would be a criminal offence under section 123 of the Social Security Administration Act, and as such the information requested in the first and second part of your request is exempt from release.

However, we can provide the number of households, who lose more than a £100 per week, using the following breakdown:

Amount Lost (per week)	Number of households
From £100 to £150	200
More than £150+	200

In total we estimate around 900 households may be affected by the benefit cap in Croydon. The figures presented are consistent with the Impact Assessment published on the 16th July 2012. The figures in the table assume that the situation of these households will go unchanged, and they will not take any steps to either work enough hours to qualify for Working Tax Credit, renegotiate their rent in situ, or find alternative accommodation. The Department is identifying and writing to all the households who are likely to be affected by the cap and we are offering advice and support through Jobcentre

Plus, including, where appropriate, early access to the Work Programme before the cap is introduced in April 2013.

Please note that figures are rounded to the nearest 100. We are unable to provide breakdowns in £20 increments as figures would be suppressed due to disclosure controls (as fewer than 100 households would be present in each band).