

Freedom of Information request 546/2014

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Information request

I am writing to you on behalf of Centrepoin, the national charity working with homeless young people aged 16-25.

Please consider the following questions as requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any further information you can offer would also be gratefully received.

I would be very grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

1) How many people/households have received Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants in each of following years in each English Local Authority?

a) 2010/2011

b) 2011/2012

c) 2012/2013

2) How many people aged under 25 have received Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants in each of following years in each English Local Authority?

a) 2010/2011

b) 2011/2012

c) 2012/2013

DWP response

The spreadsheet accompanying this letter contains two tables giving:

- **Table 1:** The number of people who received Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants in each lower tier English Local Authority in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- **Table 2:** The number of people under 25 who received Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants in each lower tier English Local Authority in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The following caveats should be noted with this data:

- Local Authority figures have been produced by linking Social Fund Computer System data with the National Benefits Database to obtain the Local Authority the person lived in at the time of application. We could not link 7% of Social Fund records in this way because a relevant benefit record could not be identified. In particular, there were no qualifying benefit requirements for Crisis Loans, so some applicants for these loans do not have benefit records.
- All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Where there were less than 5 awards in a Local Authority in a given year, the figure is shown as “#”.
- The number of people receiving Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants is not the same as the number of awards made. An individual may receive more than one Crisis Loan or Community Care Grant in a given year.
- Because we believed Crisis Loans had become a method of funding unnecessary expenditure rather than being used to deal with extraordinary financial pressure which was their original purpose measures were introduced in April 2011 and April 2012 to reduce demand and expenditure. The above measures included:
 - refocusing the scheme to help with the expenses in everyday emergencies and to help with all other expenses such as household items only as a consequence of a disaster;
 - aligning the living expenses rate to the hardship payment rate of JSA;
 - limiting the number of awards for living expenses to 3 in a rolling 12 month period; and
 - reducing the living expenses rate for non-householders² to 30 per cent of their benefit personal allowance rate.