

# Benefit cap – number of households capped across phased area Local Authorities data to May 2013

Publication date: 3rd July 2013

# Contents

Background	3
Methodology	4
Results	5
Contacts	10

# Background

The Government has introduced a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age households can receive so that, broadly, households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. If affected, a household's Housing Benefit entitlement will be reduced so that the total amount of benefit received is no longer higher than the cap level.

The benefit cap applied from 15 April 2013 in Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey Local Authorities. Remaining Local Authorities will apply the cap between 15 July 2013 and the end of September. As such all households identified as being appropriate to be capped will, in line with existing plans, have been capped by the end of September 2013.

The cap applies to the combined income from benefits including:

- the main out-of-work benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, and Employment and Support Allowance except when the Support Component is in payment);
- Housing Benefit;
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit; and
- other benefits such as Carer's Allowance.

One-off payments, for example, Social Fund Loans and non-cash benefits, such as Free School Meals, are not included in the assessment of benefit income.

Households which include someone who is entitled to **Working Tax Credit (WTC)** are **excluded from the cap**. This should increase the incentive for people to find employment because once they are in receipt of WTC their benefits will no longer be subject to the cap.

All households with someone, including a child, with a current award of Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment or Attendance Allowance, or receiving the support component of Employment and Support Allowance or Industrial Injuries Benefits (and those receiving War Disablement Pension and the equivalent payments from the Armed Forces Compensation Payments Scheme) are **exempt from the benefit cap**. This is in recognition of the extra costs disability can bring.

The **exemption** is also extended to households which include a member who is in receipt of War Widow's and War Widower's Pension. This is in line with the Government's commitment to offer special treatment to those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces, and to their dependants, in order to avoid disadvantage and recognise sacrifice for those seriously injured or killed.

The cap only applies to people of working age so income from **State Pension Credit** will not count towards the cap.

Households with a member who is entitled to Working Tax Credit are also exempt from the benefit cap.

Across the 4 phased area LAs, this ad hoc analysis shows the number of households capped in April and May 2013. These figures are broken down by cap banding, number of children, household type and Local Authority.

## Methodology

### Data Source

Data from the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) data has been used to produce this analysis. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from Local Authority computer systems. It has been designed to provide sufficient information for all current and future statistical purposes and is now the single source of Housing Benefit data. From April a Benefit Cap marker was added to SHBE which indicated that the Housing Benefit of a household had been capped. This marker is central to the production of this analysis

### Definition of a household

For the purposes of this analysis, **a household is defined as one or two adults (living together as a couple) plus any dependent children they are living with.** This differs from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) who define a household as one person alone; or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

### Identification of capped households

Over time, households will be both newly capped – and will cease to be capped (for a variety of reasons). The data in the Results section shows both **snapshot** (the number of capped households at a point in time) and **cumulative** (the number of capped households since the introduction of the benefit cap). The difference between these two figures relates to household flowing off the cap. Households capped for very short periods of time may not be captured in these statistics. This will arise if a cap has been applied and then lifted between successive monthly scans

# Results

## Key findings

Between 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and the end of May 2013:

- Across the 4 phased area LAs, almost 2.5 thousand households had their housing benefit capped.
- 6% of households were in Bromley, 20% in Croydon, 48% in Enfield and 26% in Haringey.

At the end of May 2013:

- Across the 4 phased area LAs, just over 2.4 thousand households had their housing benefit capped.
- 6% of households were in Bromley, 20% in Croydon, 48% in Enfield and 26% in Haringey.
- 86% of households had between 1 and 4 children,
- 78% of households constituted a single parent with child dependents.
- 67% of households were capped by £100 or less.

## Section 1- Cumulative total capped by the end of May 2013

**Table 1.1- Number of households with housing benefit capped between April 2013 and May 2013 in each Local Authority**

	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
<b>Cumulative total</b>	150	478	1173	643	2447

Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

### Notes

1. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.

## Section 2- Households capped at the end of April 2013

**Table 2.1- Number of households capped in each Local Authority by amount capped (£pw) as at end April 2013**

Amount capped (£pw)	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
Up to £50	36	24	56	36	153
£50.01 to £100	15	22	46	36	120
£100.01 to £150	8	17	28	17	67
£150.01 to £200	0	10	7	5	24
£200.01 to £250	0	0	10	6	12
£250.01 to £300	0	7	0	0	8
£300.01 to £350	0	0	0	5	8
£350.01 to £400	0	0	0	0	0
£400.01 and above	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	60	78	158	102	396

Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

### Notes

0 denotes a nil or negligible number of claimants.

1. Extract date for Bromley and Enfield was 1<sup>st</sup> of May and extract date for Croydon and Haringey was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

2. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.

**Table 2.2- Number of households capped in each Local Authority by number of children in household as at end April 2013**

Number of children <sup>3</sup>	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
0	0	0	0	0	9
1	0	5	8	0	17
2	0	5	48	33	81
3	31	22	64	46	159
4	18	20	17	20	79
5 and above	11	21	13	8	52

**Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)**

**Notes**

0 denotes a nil or negligible number of claimants.

1. Extract date for Bromley and Enfield was 1<sup>st</sup> of May and extract date for Croydon and Haringey was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

2. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.

3. A child is an individual for whom a child-related benefit is paid.

**Table 2.3- Number of households capped in each Local Authority by household type as at end April 2013**

Household type	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
Single, no child dependent	0	0	0	0	9
Single, with child dependent(s)	46	67	129	84	326
Couple, no child dependent	0	0	0	0	0
Couple, with child dependent(s)	15	13	20	15	60

**Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)**

**Notes**

0 denotes a nil or negligible number of claimants.

1. Extract date for Bromley and Enfield was 1<sup>st</sup> of May and extract date for Croydon and Haringey was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

2. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.

### Section 3- Households capped at the end of May 2013

**Table 3.1- Number of households capped in each Local Authority by amount capped (£pw) as at end May 2013**

Amount capped	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
Up to £50	76	225	368	198	867
£50.01 to £100	36	99	419	202	755
£100.01 to £150	16	78	170	110	369
£150.01 to £200	5	34	98	57	192
£200.01 to £250	6	23	64	31	126
£250.01 to £300	0	14	20	20	57
£300.01 to £350	0	5	16	20	45
£350.01 to £400	0	0	18	10	24
£400.01 and above	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	149	479	1168	639	2432

**Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)**

#### **Notes**

*0 denotes a nil or negligible number of claimants.*

*1. Extract date for Croydon, Enfield and Haringey was the 30th of May and the extract date for Bromley was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.*

*2. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.*

**Table 3.2- Number of households capped in each Local Authority by number of children in household as at end May 2013**

Number of children	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
0	0	8	21	30	57
1	5	10	55	32	106
2	9	35	268	157	474
3	59	224	519	233	1034
4	45	118	191	118	474
5 and above	26	85	112	73	290

**Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)**

**Notes**

0 denotes a nil or negligible number of claimants.

1. Extract date for Croydon, Enfield and Haringey was the 30th of May and the extract date for Bromley was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

2. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.

**Table 3.3- Number of households capped in each Local Authority by household type as at end May 2013**

Household type	Local Authority				Total
	Bromley	Croydon	Enfield	Haringey	
Single, no child dependent	0	8	20	28	51
Single, with child dependent(s)	105	386	925	478	1897
Couple, no child dependent	0	0	0	0	7
Couple, with child dependent(s)	46	82	219	131	480

**Source: DWP IGS Directorate 100% Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)**

**Notes**

0 denotes a nil or negligible number of claimants.

1. Extract date for Croydon, Enfield and Haringey was the 30th of May and the extract date for Bromley was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

2. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. For this reason, individual cells may not sum to totals.

**Contact points for further information:**

Press enquiries should be directed to the Department for Work and Pensions press office:

Media Enquiries: 0203 267 5129

Out of hours: 0203 267 5144

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/dwppressoffice](http://www.twitter.com/dwppressoffice)

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

**Paul McReady ([Paul.McReady@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.McReady@dwp.gsi.gov.uk))**

DWP Information, Governance & Security Directorate - Client Statistics Division

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/benefit-cap-statistics>

Other National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)