



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Discretionary Social Fund Data 2012-13 by Local Authority

19 September 2014

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Background

This publication provides Local Authority level data for the Discretionary Social Fund in 2012-13. The following schemes are covered:

- Crisis Loans for Alignment
- Crisis Loans for Living Expenses
- Crisis Loans for Items
- Community Care Grants
- Budgeting Loans

The tables in the accompanying spreadsheet contain the following data:

- Monthly and annual application volumes;
- Monthly and annual award volumes;
- Monthly and annual expenditure volumes;
- Demographic breakdown of annual award volumes by Lone Parent status, age of youngest child, age of recipient and household type;
- Number of people applying and receiving awards for Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans;
- Community Care Grant applications and awards broken down by Direction 4 category (reason for application);
- Community Care Grant refusals by reason for refusal;
- Crisis Loan applications, awards and expenditure by reason for application;
- Crisis Loan refusals by reason for refusal.

The figures are given by lower tier Local Authority, upper tier Local Authority, Government Office Region and country (England, Scotland and Wales). Figures for Great Britain are available in the Social Fund Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2012 to 2013 (see the Further Data section below).

2009 Local Authority names and definitions have been used throughout to maintain consistency with earlier data.

Methodology and Caveats

This data has been produced by linking individual level Social Fund records with benefit records from the National Benefits Database to determine the Local Authority the individual was resident in at the time of the Social Fund 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.

The unlinked records have not been included in the data so all figures will be under-estimates but are the best figures we can give for these geographies. Figures covering the whole of Great Britain are not included in this release but are available in the Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2012 to 2013 (see the Further Data section below).

All application, award and people counts are rounded to the nearest 10. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Further Data

Equivalent data for the years 2005-06, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 can be found in the National Archives:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130513091402/http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/social-fund-reform/localisation-data/>

Overall performance of the Social Fund in Great Britain is available in the Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2012 to 2013:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-work-and-pensions-on-the-social-fund-2012-to-2013>

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19 September 2014