

Freedom of Information request 2529/2012

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Information request

How many people in Coventry are claiming for housing benefits of between £10,000 and £20,000 for the calendar year 2011?

DWP response

In response to your request, the tables below provide breakdowns by average weekly award and annualised amounts.

Housing Benefit recipients in Coventry Local Authority by annual award band¹: March 2011 – March 2012

	March 2011	March 2012
All HB	28,670	29,310
Under £10,000	28,510	29,110
£10,000 to under £20,000	110	130
£20,000 and above	-	10
Missing HB Values	50	60

Housing Benefit recipients in Coventry Local Authority by weekly award amount bands: March 2011 - March 2012

	March 2011	March 2012
All	28,670	29,310
£0 to under £100	21,670	23,070

£100 to under £200	6,850	6,050
£200 to under £300	100	100
£300 and over	10	40
Missing HB Values	50	60

Housing Benefit recipients Average Weekly Award in Coventry Local Authority
March 2011 - March 2012

	March 2011	March 2012
Average Weekly Award Amount Coventry	81.10	81.78

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE)
March 2011 and March 2012.

Notes:

1. The annualised amounts are calculated by multiplying average weekly Housing Benefit amounts for each individual household by 52.18.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. Components may not sum to total due to independent rounding.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Average weekly award amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
5. “-“denotes nil or negligible.
6. 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 March 2012 is the latest available.
7. Housing Benefit National Statistics are published on the Department's website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/index.php?page=hbctb_arc .

8. Official statistics on Housing Benefit expenditure by Local Authority at: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure> .

Please note that the Government is reforming Housing Benefit to control Housing Benefit expenditure. Limits to the amount of Housing Benefit that people in the private and social rented sectors are entitled to, based on their household size, will encourage people to make sensible decisions about what they can reasonably afford, and encourage work incentives.

From April 2011 a number of changes have been made to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA). LHA rates are used to calculate Housing Benefit for most households renting in the private rented sector. In particular, LHA rates are now capped. The maximum weekly amount based on household size and bedroom entitlement is capped at:

- £250 per week for a one bedroom property,
- £290 per week for a two bedroom property,
- £340 per week for a three bedroom property,
- £400 per week for a four bedroom property.

The changes applied to new Housing Benefit-LHA claimants from April 2011. Existing Housing Benefit-LHA claimants have been given up to 9 months transitional protection from the review date of their claim so will be moved across gradually from January 2012.

These reforms are also intended to exert a downward pressure on rents in the private rented sector.

The limits outlined above are overall national limits, you may find it helpful to know that lower level local housing allowance rates can be obtained from relevant local authority websites (for example, rates for Coventry can be viewed at:

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/200118/housing_and_council_tax_benefit/157/housing_and_council_tax_benefits).