

Freedom of Information request 844/2013

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Information request

In Light of the recent changes in regards to Council Tax payment as the Legislation Governing ESA/JSA states this is the minium amount the law defines a person needs to live on and it is subdivided into futher elements such as bus fares to meet the requirement to sign on , tv license etc.

Can you plese supply a detailed break down of each catgeory defined and the finicial amount defined for this.

Also is there a defined category for Council tax.

DWP response

In response to your question, Income-related benefits such as Jobseekers Allowance are paid at a rate set by Parliament each year. The amount is intended to cover day to day living expenses. The amount of benefit payable depends on the individual circumstances of the claimant and their family, but the basic personal allowance for working age income related benefits in 2012/13 is:

- £71.00 for single person, 25 and over,
- £56.25 for those under 25
- £111.45 - couple, both 18 and over

There are variants for couples please see attached for further information:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/benefitrates2012.pdf>

The schedule of proposed benefits rates from April 2013 can be found below:

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2012-1830/ScheduleofproposedbenefitratesfromApril2013.pdf>

The levels of benefit need to take account of the competing demands on public expenditure and work incentives. Benefits are not made up of separate amounts for specific items of expenditure such as food or fuel charges, and beneficiaries are free to spend their benefit as they see fit, in the light of their individual needs and preferences.

Council Tax Benefit is being abolished on 1 April 2013 and replaced by local council tax reduction schemes. In England it is the responsibility of local authorities to design and administer schemes that reflect local priorities, subject to the legislative framework set out in the Local Government Finance Act 2012. For further details you should contact your local authority, but I attach a link to the guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-local-authorities-more-control-over-how-they-spend-public-money-in-their-area--2/supporting-pages/localising-council-tax-support>