

Housing Benefit: Caseload Management Information (CMI), April 2016 to June 2016, Quarterly Experimental Statistics

Summary

By identifying the changes of circumstances which lead to a reduction in entitlement, local authorities can prevent or minimise overpayments from occurring, thereby minimising Fraud and Error. The Caseload Management Information data series compares the actual value of reductions in weekly Housing Benefit entitlement achieved by local authorities against the value of reductions we would expect them to identify, given the composition of their Housing Benefit caseload. A high number indicates that local authorities are finding most of the changes in circumstances that occur in their caseload and are ensuring overpayments of benefit are kept to a minimum.

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Figure 1: Total Reductions Achieved and Expected

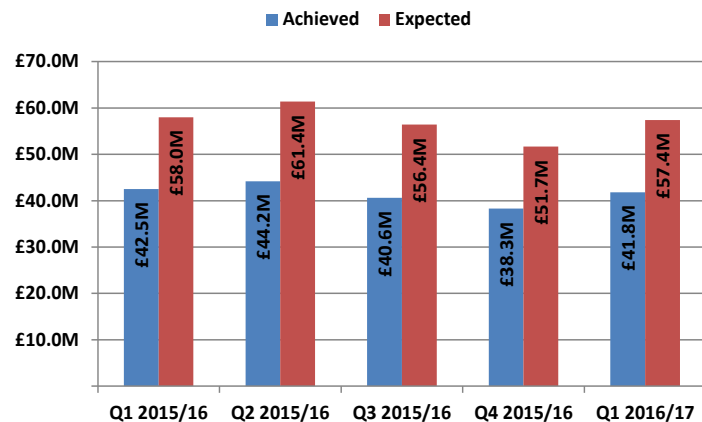


Figure 2: Percentage Achieved

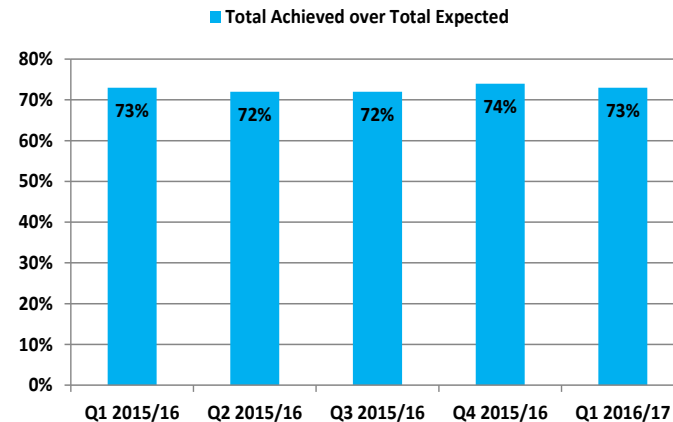


Figure 1 – Total value of reductions achieved and expected, see additional tables for the full breakdown.

Figure 2 – Percentage of expected reductions achieved, see additional tables for a full breakdown.

Key Points

- The total value of reductions to weekly HB entitlement in quarter 1 of 2016/17 was £41.8m, compared with £38.3m for the previous quarter (quarter 4 of 2015/16) and with £42.5m for the same quarter a year ago (quarter 1 of 2015/16).
- The total value of expected reductions to weekly HB entitlement in quarter 1 of 2016/17 was £57.4m, compared with £51.7m for the previous quarter (quarter 4 of 2015/16) and with £58.0m for the same quarter a year ago (quarter 1 of 2015/16).
- The percentage of the expected that was achieved for Q1 2016/17 is the same as the level for Q1 in 2015/16 at 73%. The drop in the total value of reductions achieved compared to the same quarter in 2015/16 is largely due to the fall in the total HB caseload.
- The rise in the total value of reductions achieved compared to the previous quarter is largely due to seasonality affects, this is reflected in the higher level of expected reductions in quarter 1.
- Across the countries, in Q1 2016/17, England achieved 72%, Wales 73% and Scotland 82%.

Further Information: How we calculated the figures

The actual value of reductions to weekly Housing Benefit entitlement is derived from customer level data provided to DWP by local authorities.

The expected value of reductions is our estimate of what we would reasonably expect local authorities to identify, given the composition of their caseload. This estimate is derived by looking at historical data and comparing the value of reductions achieved within similar claimant groups across local authorities, and setting an expected level based on this data. For further details on the methodology please see the published methodological outline.

Notes

Please note:

- These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as Experimental Statistics. As such the methodology, data sources and definitions may change as we develop and refine these statistics further.
- These are non-seasonally adjusted statistics. Therefore any differences between quarters may be the result of seasonality.
- Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage. If you have any feedback or comments please contact us at HBFE.PERFORMANCE@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK
- For further information and detailed tables, including a breakdown by local authority, please see the Housing Benefit Caseload Management Information collection page.
- The next release is planned to be on 25th January 2017. This will contain data up to quarter 2 of 2016/17.
- The Department for Work and Pensions also publish quarterly [Housing Benefit speed of processing](#) and [Housing Benefit caseload information](#).