

# Freedom of Information request 2014-666

Date received 11 February 2014

Date of response 25 March 2014

## Information request

1. Please could you tell me how many housing benefit customers receive the following amounts per week? Please provide a table showing the total number of claimants by £100 bands 0-99.99, 100 – 199.99, 200 – 299.99 etc up to £1,500+.
2. Please provide me with a list of the number of claimants from each local authority area where the value of the claim is in excess of £999.99 per week.
3. (a) How many people claiming housing benefit live in and (b) what the total cost to the public purse is of housing benefit paid to households with (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more children.
4. How many households receive out of work benefits and have the following number of children (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine, (x) 10, (xi) eleven and (xii) 12 or more children.

## DWP response

In response to questions 1 and 2, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably assessable to you.

Statistics on Housing Benefit (HB) by banded weekly award amounts and number of child dependants can be found on Stat-Xplore, the Department's new visualisation tool which allows you design your own tables. This can be accessed through the following link: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>

To obtain estimates of the number of HB recipients in Great Britain by banded weekly amounts, follow the instructions below:

1. Click on the **Stat-Xplore** link.
2. Unless you have already registered you will need to register with the site to enable you to produce any large tables, although smaller tables can be produced without registering. Follow the on screen instructions

- to register. You will need an email address and must choose a password. The other registration details are optional.
3. You will receive an email to confirm your registration. Follow the instructions in the email and then you will be able to login to Stat-Xplore.
  4. Once in Stat-Xplore in the left-hand side window click the small arrow on the left-hand side of the **Housing Benefit** folder.
  5. Then double click on the **Housing Benefit Claimants** folder.
  6. Once the table information appears, at the top of the list select the arrow button at the left-side of **Measures**. Then select the **Range** button next to **Weekly Award Amount** to customise your own range.
  7. In the box that appears, enter a name for the variable e.g. **Award Bands**, and choose the ranges as follows: **From:  $\leq 0$ , To:  $\leq 1500$**  and **Increment: 100**.
  8. Click **Next** and then **Create** to produce your variable. The variable ranges created can be found by clicking the small arrow button on the left-hand side of **Ranges** and then the drop down arrow on the right-hand side of **Award Bands**, selecting this and then clicking the **Add to Row** button.
  9. Then click the **Retrieve Data** button in the right-hand side window to populate the table.

To include local authority in your table, you will need to add an extra step before retrieving the data. All local authorities can be found by clicking the small arrow on the left-hand side of **Geography (admin-based)**, then click the arrow on the right-hand side of **National – Regional – Admin LA**, select **Local Authority** from the drop down menu that appears and then click the grey **Add to Column** button.

With regard to households receiving over £500 per week in Housing Benefit, please note that although the Benefit Cap rolled out fully across the country at the end of September 2013, some households may be exempt as the benefit cap does not apply to households claiming certain disability benefits as well as War Widows and War Widowers Pensions.

In response to question 3, the number of HB recipients by the number of child dependants in Great Britain at November 2013, which is the latest information available, can be found in the table below.

**Number of Housing Benefit recipients by number of child dependants, Great Britain: November 2013**

	<b>Caseload</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
<b>Total</b>	4,985,508	£23,900m
<b>None</b>	3,184,130	£14,057m
<b>1</b>	828,451	£4,292m

<b>2</b>	564,277	£3,078m
<b>3</b>	268,525	£1,557m
<b>4</b>	94,797	£588m
<b>5</b>	30,861	£210m
<b>6</b>	9,565	£73m
<b>7</b>	3,161	£28m
<b>8</b>	1,171	£11m
<b>9</b>	380	£4m
<b>10 or more</b>	188	£2m

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. Components may not sum to total due to independent rounding.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. The total expenditure has been aligned with that published in the Autumn Statement benefit expenditure and caseload tables (published at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/273833/outturn-and-forecast-expenditure-201213.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/273833/outturn-and-forecast-expenditure-201213.xls)).

In response to question 4, children living in all Out-of-work Benefit claimant households by number of child dependants in Great Britain at May 2012, which is the latest information available, can be found in the table below.

**Number of Out-of-work benefit claimant households by number of child dependants, Great Britain: May 2012**

<b>Number of child dependants</b>	<b>All out-of-work benefits</b>
<b>1</b>	618,560
<b>2</b>	414,070
<b>3</b>	192,780
<b>4</b>	76,790
<b>5</b>	25,430
<b>6</b>	8,530
<b>7</b>	2,950
<b>8</b>	1,040
<b>9</b>	360
<b>10</b>	110
<b>11</b>	40
<b>12 or more</b>	20

Source: DWP WPLS 100% data and HMRC Child Benefit administrative data.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure controls have also been applied. "-" denotes Nil or Negligible.
2. Data represent a snapshot as at 31 May 2012. Background guidance on the use and interpretation of the figures is available at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/256869/cb\\_hholds\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/256869/cb_hholds_guidance.pdf)