

Freedom of Information request 2896/2011

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Information request

We wish to know how many families in Britain, where one parent is in receipt of job seeker's allowance or disability benefits, are also claiming child benefit for more than 10 children.

In each case where the above applies, we would be grateful if you could supply the following information:

- Location of the family (i.e. city, town, village or local authority area)
- Number of children for whom child benefit is being claimed, and their ages
- Number of adults in the family claiming benefits, and details of the benefits claimed
- Total monthly value of all benefits payments to the family - including child benefit, disability benefit and/or jobseeker's allowance.

DWP response

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on children in out-of-work benefit households on its website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/ben_hholds/index.php?page=child_ben_hholds.

Local authority breakdowns by benefit type are available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/ben_hholds/2010/cowb_authority_2010.xls.

The published information details the numbers of children living in households where at least one parent or guardian claimed one or more of the following out-of-work benefits:

- Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (B/SDA), or
- Pension Credit (PC) at 31 May each year from 2008 to 2010.

In addition to the published information the table below shows the number of families, in Great Britain, with 10 or more children (aged under 18) who are in receipt of an out of work benefit by benefit type, May 2010.

	Number of families with 10 or more children under 18	Number of families with 10 children under 18	Number of families with 11 children under 18	Number of families with 12 children under 18	Number of families with 13 children under 18	Number of families with 14 children under 18
Number of families	190	140	30	20	-	-
Jobseekers Allowance	40	30	10	-	-	-
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	60	40	10	-	-	-
Income Support	130	100	30	10	-	-
Employment and Support Allowance	10	10	-	-	-	-
Pension Credit	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; column totals may not sum due to rounding
2. “-“ denotes nil or negligible.
3. Individual benefit breakdowns: Cases where a parent or guardian in the family is in receipt of an out-of-work benefit. Families may be in receipt of more than one benefit
4. All benefits: Total number of families in receipt of one or more out-of-work benefits.

Data by Local Authority area and by age of child has not been provided. This data has been withheld since the information falls under the exemption in section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption covers personal information about a third party. Although you have not requested individual level data, the amount of detail you have requested if published in a national newspaper and on the Internet would lead to a reasonable chance of individual claimants and their families being identified. This would breach the families’ right to privacy contrary to the Data Protection Act.

Data by number of adults in the family claiming benefits and total monetary value of benefit payments are not available. We estimate that the cost of complying with this part of your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.