

# Freedom of Information request 1404/2011

Received 19 May 2011

Published 5 July 2011

## Information request

1. The number of households in the following council districts: Southend-on-Sea, Rochford District, Basildon and Castle Point, receiving housing benefit and council tax benefit for each of the last three financial years, broken down by year.
2. For all of the information referenced in Question 1, I would like it to be broken down by local authority and into bands according to the combined sum of housing benefit received per year, i.e. more than £10k, more than £20k, more than £30k etc.

## DWP response

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

In response to question 1, the Department regularly publishes Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit National Statistics by Local Authority on its website at: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb>

In response to question 2, the attached tables show information on estimated average yearly award bands for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. The information is based on the annualised value of weekly awards in a snapshot of the caseload on the second Thursday of February 2009, 2010 and 2011. Not all claimants will have received benefit for the whole year, and entitlements may vary from month to month, so this does not represent the total amounts actually received over the course of a year. You may also be interested to view similar information at GB level published on our website at: [http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc\\_analysis/2011/hb\\_awards\\_march\\_2011.pdf](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/hb_awards_march_2011.pdf)

Finally, benefit expenditure tables are published on the DWP website at the following link:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables\\_budget2010.xls](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_budget2010.xls)