

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

Urgent Bulletin

Department for Work and Pensions, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/>

HB/CTB U1/2013

15 February 2013

Contact	Queries about the <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bulletin in general, contact housing.benefitenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk• distribution of this bulletin, contact housing.correspondenceandPQs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
Who should read	All Housing Benefit (HB) staff, all staff connected to Housing matters and in particular, supported exempt accommodation
Action	For information

Identifying those living in supported exempt accommodation

- 1 We advised you in Housing Benefit Direct issue 131 of November 2012 (<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/issue-131-nov-2012.pdf>) that the housing costs of those living in Supported Exempt Accommodation will not be delivered via Universal Credit. For the time being help will be delivered as now through local authority housing benefit teams under existing legislation and funding arrangements.
- 2 For the longer term we are exploring the feasibility of a localised funding system. To enable funding to be transferred from central Government to localities, we first need to establish how much is currently being spent on this type of accommodation.
- 3 To this end we advised that we would amend the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for April 2013 to enable us to identify claimants in supported exempt accommodation and whether the provider is in the private or social rented sector.

- 4 It has been brought to our attention that some local authorities may have misinterpreted this as a request to trawl through their cases to see whether current designations are correct or not. This is not our intention. We are simply trying to establish how much is currently spent in this area as part of our base lining exercise.
- 5 Consequently in recording for SHBE Local Authorities should:
 - Identify the current individual dwellings being treated as Supported Exempt Accommodation in their area, including those provided by registered social landlords or private registered providers (England).
 - Record this on their systems no later than 31st March 2013 in order for this to be picked up by the SHBE run of April 2013
- 6 We apologise if our previous communication on this issue lead to any confusion. Thank you for your help and support in this matter.

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