

# Freedom of Information request 2014-618

Date received: 5 February 2014

Date of response: 11 March 2014

## Information request

I write to request some Housing Benefit statistical information under FOI. I am particularly interested in stats relating to Local Housing Allowance. I have tried to extract the information myself from your Stat-Xplore system but failed. I'd like to know for each year since April 2008 when LHA was introduced for private tenants:

- a) How many claims were received?
- b) What was the overall value of claims?
- c) What was the average LHA award for 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom properties for each Council area?
- d) What proportion of tenants have their rent redirected to their landlord under regulations 95 or 96 (8 weeks rule or safeguarding due to vulnerability)?
- e) Has there been any noticeable reduction in LHA claims during 2013/14?

## DWP response

In response to parts a), b) and e) of your query, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The available information for Housing Benefit claims and expenditure, by tenure including Local Housing Allowance, each year from 2007/08 to 2012/13, plus forecasted data to 2018/19, is published by the Department at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/273833/outturn-and-forecast-expenditure-201213.xls#Housing\\_Benefit!A1](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/273833/outturn-and-forecast-expenditure-201213.xls#Housing_Benefit!A1)

In response to part c) of your query, statistics on Local Housing Authority claimants by Local Authority and entitled bedrooms for the latest data November 2013, can be found on Stat-Xplore via the Department's website: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

To obtain a table of the statistics you require, as at November 2013 follow the steps below;

1. Click on the **Stat-Xplore for Housing Benefit claimants** link.
2. Unless you have already registered you will need to register with the site to enable you to produce the large table you have requested,

- 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. In the left hand side window click on the arrow button at the side of the **Housing Benefit Databases** folder.
  5. Then double click on the **Housing Benefit Claimants** folder.
  6. Once the table of data appears click on the arrow button at the side of **Geography (residence-based)**.
  7. For a table of all Local Authorities, select the arrow to the right side of **National - Regional - LA - OAs**, and then **Local Authority** from the next drop down menu that appears.
  8. Once selected, click the **Add to Row** button.
  9. Next, at the top of the list select the arrow button at the side of **Measures**.
  10. Select the **Weekly Award Amount** *mean* and click on the **Add to Column** button.
  11. To include the LHA award by number of bedrooms, select the left hand arrow next to **Entitled Bedrooms (LHA only)** and from the drop down menu that appears choose all the number of bedrooms you require from 1 to 5.
  12. Once selected, click the **Add to Column** button again.
  13. Next, click on the **Retrieve data** button on the top left in the table screen and this will populate your table with the data requested.
  14. Then select the format you wish the data to appear in by clicking in the drop-down menu on the top right of the screen labelled **Down Load Table**: The default is Excel 2007.
  15. Next click **Go** and then **Ok** in the pop up window and this will create your table in Excel.
  16. Finally the table can then be saved to a folder of your choice.

The information requested on Local Housing Authority claimants by Local Authority and entitled bedrooms from November 2010 to November 2012 is provided in the first tab of the attached Excel spreadsheet (FOI 2014\_618\_response.xls).

In response to part d) of your query, the information on the proportion of LHA tenants paid direct to the landlord, for the period November 2010 to August 2013 (the latest period available) is provided in the second tab of the attached Excel spreadsheet (FOI 2014\_618\_response.xls).

**Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or**

**Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**

In response to parts c) and d) of your query with regards to data prior to 2010, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with 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 3½ 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 these parts of your request further.