

Freedom of Information request 2015- 279

Date received: 25 January 2015

Date of response: 13 February 2015

Information request

I understand that your department pay those claimants, who qualify for Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI), the interest-only, directly to their lenders, on the first £200,000 of their mortgages.

My questions, although generally seek information about those claiming SMI, focus on those claimants based in the Central London area.

1. How many qualifying claimants have mortgages of greater than £200,000? Where are such claimants living? Please provide a breakdown.

2. Kindly provide a breakdown of the number of claimants in the below listed postcodes: E1, EC1A, EC1M, EC1N, EC1P, EC1V, EC1Y, EC2A, EC2M, EC2P, EC2R, EC2V, EC2Y, EC3A, EC3M, EC3N, EC3P, EC3R, EC3V, EC4A, EC4M, EC4N, EC4P, EC4R, EC4V, EC4Y, N1, NW1, SE1, SW1, SW7, W1, W2, W11, WC1, WC2.

DWP response

In response to your request with regards to Pension Credit (PC) Income Support (IS), and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and we are able to provide the figures requested for Great Britain and the Central London area you specified for claimants who are receiving Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI). This information can be found in the tables below:

Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.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

Pension Credit, Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance claimants receiving Support for Mortgage Interest: May 2014

	PC claimants receiving SMI	IS claimants receiving SMI	JSA claimants receiving SMI
Great Britain	75,900	22,100	11,200
Central London	*100	-	-

Area			
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Of those; Claimants with mortgages greater than £200,000

	PC claimants receiving SMI	IS claimants receiving SMI	JSA claimants receiving SMI
Great Britain	*200	600	*400
Central London Area	-	-	-

Source: DWP 5% Sample data.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on 5% sample data uprated against 100% WPLS. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. '-' denotes nil or negligible.
4. Numbers marked "*" are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation, therefore these figures should be used as a guide only.
5. Data supplied is at May 2014 which is that latest data available at the time of the request.
6. 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 your request with regards to Employment and Support Allowance, we 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 (FOIA) the Department is not obliged to comply with your request regarding Employment and Support Allowance and we will not be processing this part of your request any further.