

Freedom of Information request 2015-396

Date received 30 January 2015

Date of response 27 February 2015

Information request

1. Please could you tell me how many housing benefit customers receive the following amounts per week? Please provide a table showing the total number of claimants by £100, bands: £0-£99.99, £100-£199.99, £200-£299.99 etc. up to £1,500+.
2. Please provide me with a list of the number of claimants from each local authority area where the value of the claim is in excess of £999.99 per week.
3. (a) How many people claiming housing benefit live in and (b) what the total cost to the public purse is of housing benefit paid to households with (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more children.
4. How many households receive out of work benefits and have the following number of children: (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine, (x) 10, (xi) eleven and (xii) 12 or more children.

DWP response

In response to questions 1 and 2, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Statistics on Housing Benefit (HB) by banded weekly award amounts and number of child dependants can be found on Stat-Xplore, the Department's new visualisation tool which allows you design your own tables. This can be accessed through the following link: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>

Guidance on how to extract the information required from Stat-Xplore can be found at:

https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Stat-Xplore_User_Guide.htm

With regard to households receiving over £500 per week in Housing Benefit, please note that although the Benefit Cap rolled out fully across the country at the end of September 2013, some households may be exempt as the benefit cap does not apply to households claiming certain disability benefits and War Widows or War Widowers Pensions.

In response to question 3, the number of HB recipients by the number of child dependants in Great Britain at August 2014, which is the latest information available, is shown in the table below.

Number of Housing Benefit recipients by number of child dependants, Great Britain: August 2014

	Caseload	Expenditure
Total	4,930,162	£24,177m
None	3,131,305	£14,102m
1	812,681	£4,319m
2	566,562	£3,155m
3	274,403	£1,664m
4	97,926	£615m
5	32,093	£210m
6	10,081	£69m
7	3,253	£25m
8	1,216	£11m
9	417	£4m
10 or more	205	£2m

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Caseload data in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. Components may not sum to total due to independent rounding.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month and data shown for August 2014 which is the latest data available at the time of the request.
3. The total expenditure has been aligned with that published in the Autumn Statement benefit expenditure and caseload tables published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/benefit-expenditure-and-caseload-tables-2013>

In response to question 4 - Out-of-work Benefit claimant households by number of child dependants in Great Britain at May 2013, which is the latest information available, is shown in the table below.

Number of Out-of-work benefit claimant households by number of child dependants, Great Britain: May 2013

Number of child dependants	All out-of-work benefits
1	586,000
2	390,430
3	182,900
4	73,060
5	24,050
6	7,830
7	2,680
8	910
9	310
10	100
11	30
12 or more	20

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

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure controls have also been applied.
2. Data represent a snapshot as at 31 May 2013 which is the latest data available at the time of the request.
3. Background guidance on the use and interpretation of the figures is available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/256869/cb_hholds_guidance.pdf