## Freedom of Information request 2013-2137

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### Information request

Please could you provide me with any data you hold on the number of appointees for benefits payments held for different benefits, and the total number of people claiming that benefit. It may well be beyond the scope of the resources for an FOI request to produce these data for all benefits, in which case, please could you provide data on the following benefits (in descending order of importance, stopping when the resource limit is reached):

Employment and Support Allowance State Pension Disability Living Allowance Attendance Allowance Housing Benefit

### **DWP** response

In response to your question regarding the number of appointees, the information we have available is shown in the tables below.

The first table shows the number of accounts paid to appointees for the benefits you requested, plus Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance; and the second table shows the number of Housing Benefit claimants whose benefit is paid to an appointee. Both contain the latest available data.

# The number of accounts paid to appointees, by Benefit claimed in Great Britain: December 2012

Attendance Allowance	7,320
Disability Living Allowance	668,180
Employment Support Allowance	6,600
Incapacity Benefit	2,310
Severe Disablement Allowance	8,260
State Pension	288,630

Source: DWP, Information, Governance and Security Directorate, 100% data

#### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

- 2. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
- 3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Appointees of claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account.
- 4. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008

Please note that the figures supplied in the table are derived from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

# The number of Housing Benefit claimants with appointees in Great Britain: February 2013

	Total
Housing Benefit	6,470

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

#### Notes:

- 1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
- 2. Recipients are as at the second Thursday of the month.
- 3. This data incorporates the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.
- 4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and February 2013 is the most recent available.
- 5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Please note that the figure supplied has not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. This information should therefore be treated with caution.

In response to your question regarding the total number of benefit claimants, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes benefit statistics through its Tabulation Tool which allows you to design your own tables and can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

National Statistics on the number of people claiming Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, and State Pension can be found as follows:

Go to the website above and scroll down to the *Benefit Caseloads* section and the *click here for Benefit Caseload National Statistics (WPLS) data* link then follow these steps;

- 1. Select the benefit you are interested in through the drop down menu titled: **Benefit/Scheme**.
- 2. Under the Analysis option, select Caseload (Thousands).
- 3. In the Row option, select **Time Series**.
- 4. In the Column option, select required variable, e.g. **Age of claimant**.
- 5. In the Subset drop down select **NONE**, and then select **Get Table** to retrieve the statistics.

The latest available information is at November 2012.

The most recent statistics for Housing Benefit (HB) can be found by accessing the *Stat-Xplore for Housing Benefit claimants* link on the Tabulation Tool page, registering with the website (optional) and using the menus on the left to construct a cross tabulation of the HB data.

The latest available information is at February 2013.