

Freedom of Information request 2013-3813

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Information request

I am conducting research into changes to housing benefit over the period 1989 -2012. I have been able to identify data on your website from 2008 onwards but would like to access equivalent data as far back as 1989 if this is available.

However, I am looking for annual figures back as far as 1989 if this is possible. I would like average payments (by tenure) and claimant numbers (by tenure). Any geographical breakdown would be useful (regional or LA).

DWP response

In response to your query regarding Housing Benefit for the years 1998 to 2007, section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Information from May 1998 to May 2007 is available at

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107093842/http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/index.php?page=hbctb_arc

For example, in "Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Summary Statistics: May 2003" tables HB 1.1 and HB 1.4 give a time series of caseloads and amounts by tenure from May 1998 to May 2003 and "Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Summary Statistics: May 2007" contains details for May 2002 to May 2007 in tables HB1.1 and HB1.3.

Also, in each publication from 2003 to 2007, table HB 1.7 shows caseload by Government Office Region (GOR) and tenure and table HB 1.8 shows average weekly amounts by GOR for the relevant time period.

In response to your query regarding Housing Benefit for the years 1989 to 1997, the information that we have available for May 1989 to May 1997 is shown in the tables below, please note that we are unable to provide regional breakdowns for these.

Housing Benefit recipients and weekly average amounts payable by tenancy in Great Britain: May 1989 to May 1991.

Thousands				£ per week		
Date	Total	Rent Rebate Local Authority tenants	Rent Rebate Private tenants	Total	Rent Rebate Local Authority tenants	Rent Rebate Private tenants
May-89	3,930	2,971	958	18.26	17.36	21.06
May-90	3,995	2,928	1,067	21.31	19.80	25.45
May-91	4,026	2,944	1,082	25.41	22.76	32.57

Housing Benefit recipients by tenancy in Great Britain: May 1992 to May 1997.

Thousands							
Date	Total	LA tenants	Private tenants	Regulated tenants	De-regulated tenants	Housing association tenants	Other private tenants
May-92	4,325	3,034	1,292	381	571	340	..
May-93	4,533	3,053	1,481	338	730	412	..
May-94	4,650	3,016	1,634	294	826	509	5
May-95	4,734	2,964	1,770	258	893	610	9
May-96	4,776	2,898	1,878	217	929	723	9
May-97	4,639	2,792	1,847	193	869	781	5

Housing Benefit weekly average amounts by tenancy in Great Britain: May 1992 to May 1997.

£ per week							
Date	Total	LA tenants	Private tenants	Regulated tenants	De-regulated tenants	Housing association tenants	Other private tenants
May-92	30.03	26.46	38.45	30.02	48.42	32.24	..
May-93	33.74	28.94	43.61	33.21	52.17	35.75	..
May-94	36.55	30.74	47.28	37.92	56.39	39.52	43.69
May-95	39.60	33.09	50.49	38.75	58.96	43.10	46.37
May-96	41.58	34.56	52.42	39.41	61.02	45.28	49.69
May-97	43.17	35.91	54.15	41.80	62.07	48.38	51.52

Source: Social Security Statistics Publications 1992 and 1998.

Notes:

- (1) Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
- (2) Average amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
- (3) A breakdown of Regulated, De-regulated and Housing Association tenants were not available before May 1992.
- (4) The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
- (5) Housing Association tenants are known as Registered Social Landlord tenants from May 1992.
- (6) '..' denotes not available.