

Freedom of Information request 2013-4113

Received 23rd August 2013

Published 24th September 2013

Information request

Can you tell me how many families are claiming above the upper most boundary for housing benefit? (I gather this is £50,000)

How many of them are claiming £100,000 (please specify if this is due to the exception of temporary accommodation or homeless shelters)?

DWP response

In response to your first question, the following table shows the number of housing benefit recipients in Great Britain with a recorded weekly award of £958.50 or more a week, at the latest data which is for May 2013. This would be the equivalent of more than £50,000 a year if they remained on this amount continuously for a year.

Payment information is sourced from the administering local authority once a decision has been made on amount of Housing Benefit awarded. The decision is based on details entered on the Housing Benefit claim form and supporting evidence.

Housing Benefit Recipients in Great Britain with a recorded weekly award of £958.50 or more, as at May 2013

May 2013	10
----------	----

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted, further information can be found here https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/metadata/Data%20Confidentiality.html?dbi=d=hb_full
2. Recipients are at the second Thursday of the month. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and May 2013 is the latest data available.
3. Data is collected on a monthly basis from an electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems and released as the Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% level data (SHBE). It is possible that errors can occur in the recording of weekly award (both on a form and inputting onto a computer system within the local authority that is processing the claim).

4. The source data provides the weekly housing benefit amount for each individual household. The annualised amounts are then calculated by multiplying by 52.18.

The data provided is at May 2013 and pre-dates national roll out of the benefit cap, which will be complete by the end of September 2013. These households will now be subject to the benefit cap, unless in receipt of exempting benefits. Therefore they will now receive a much lower Housing Benefit amount and will have been offered additional support to move into work or to more affordable accommodation.

In response to your second question, as at May 2013 there are no housing benefit recipients receiving the equivalent of more than £100,000 a year in Great Britain.

You may find it useful to know that Housing Benefit information is now available using the new visualisation tool called Stat-Xplore which is published on the Departmental Tabulation Tool at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>

Scroll down and select [Stat-Xplore](#) then after following relevant registration/log in instructions select **Housing Benefit**.

Guidance on how to produce your required tables can be found here:

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