

Freedom of Information request 2013-5059

Date received 24th October 2013

Date of response 21st November 2013

Information request

Please could you provide, for 2011/12, or the latest available data, the number of people who claimed under the categories below for the following local authorities: Barking and Dagenham, Basildon District, Braintree District, Brentwood District, Castle Point District, Chelmsford District, Havering, Maldon District, Redbridge, Rochford District, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Great Yarmouth District, Mid Suffolk District, Suffolk Coastal District, Waveney District.

Income Support.

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Working Tax Credit.

Child Tax Credit (not just the family element).

Disabled Person's Tax Credit.

Housing Benefit.

Council Tax Benefit (not the disability element or single person discount).

Pension Credit.

Income-based Employment and Support Allowance.

Have 3 or more children under 19 and receive at least one of the above benefits.

DWP response

In response to your question;

I can confirm that the Department does hold some information on the number of claimants who have three or more child dependants and receive at least one of the benefits listed above.

However this information is not held centrally for all benefits. We therefore estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 due to the complexity involved in linking together data for each benefit.

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 the Department is not obliged to comply with your request.

The information that we do have available within the appropriate limit is given in the table below. This information shows the number of claimants who have three or more child dependants for each benefit separately. These figures will include claimants who are receiving more than one of the benefits listed above and will have been affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003.

Please note that the latest information we have for Council Tax Benefit (CTB) is for February 2013 as from the 1st April 2013 CTB was abolished and replaced with a new scheme of Localised Council Tax Reduction (LCTR). In England the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is now responsible for the statistics and the Scottish and Welsh Governments have similar responsibility.

Please note that the figures given for **Income-based Employment and Support Allowance** 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.

Number of Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-based Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit recipients by Area, and of which those with 3 or more child dependants: May 2013 (February 2013 for CTB)

Benefit	Area	Number of recipients	Of which those with 3 or more child dependants
Income Support	Total	1,021,860	150,270
	Barking and Dagenham	5,950	1,180
	Basildon	3,400	570
	Braintree	1,860	280
	Brentwood	660	80
	Castle Point	1,160	160
	Chelmsford	1,740	270
	Havering	3,960	620
	Maldon	590	80
	Redbridge	4,410	750
	Rochford	680	110
	Southend-on-Sea	3,480	490
	Thurrock	2,870	540
	Great Yarmouth	1,970	280

	Mid Suffolk	720	110
	Suffolk Coastal	940	150
	Waveney	1,940	290
Income-based Jobseekers Allowance	Total	1,121,000	58,100
	Barking and Dagenham	5,400	300
	Basildon	3,800	200
	Braintree	1,400	100
	Brentwood	800	-
	Castle Point	1,200	100
	Chelmsford	2,100	-
	Havering	3,600	200
	Maldon	600	-
	Redbridge	4,600	200
	Rochford	600	-
	Southend-on-Sea	3,500	100
	Thurrock	3,100	100
	Great Yarmouth	2,800	200
	Mid Suffolk	800	-
	Suffolk Coastal	800	100
	Waveney	2,200	100
Housing Benefit	Total	5,072,260	403,260
	Barking and Dagenham	23,410	2,870
	Basildon	14,470	1,270
	Braintree	9,300	760
	Brentwood	3,290	170
	Castle Point	4,610	380
	Chelmsford	8,920	680
	Havering	14,790	1,330
	Maldon	3,180	230
	Redbridge	19,260	2,740
	Rochford	3,460	260
	Southend-on-Sea	17,550	1,350
	Thurrock	12,500	1,160
	Great Yarmouth	10,790	760
	Mid Suffolk	4,120	290
	Suffolk Coastal	6,480	460
	Waveney	10,180	770
Council Tax Benefit (Feb 13)	Total	5,904,250	406,420
	Barking and Dagenham	24,180	2,830
	Basildon	17,800	1,330
	Braintree	11,040	770
	Brentwood	4,260	190
	Castle Point	7,620	410
	Chelmsford	10,240	680
	Havering	19,430	1,370

	Maldon	4,400	250
	Redbridge	22,360	2,840
	Rochford	5,310	310
	Southend-on-Sea	18,970	1,280
	Thurrock	13,870	1,140
	Great Yarmouth	13,340	790
	Mid Suffolk	5,570	300
	Suffolk Coastal	8,200	470
	Waveney	12,980	790
	Total	1,153,270	51,800
Income-based Employment and Support Allowance	Barking and Dagenham	4,360	320
	Basildon	3,210	200
	Braintree	1,780	80
	Brentwood	660	20
	Castle Point	1,170	60
	Chelmsford	1,900	80
	Havering	3,040	130
	Maldon	700	40
	Redbridge	4,070	280
	Rochford	680	40
	Southend-on-Sea	3,780	170
	Thurrock	2,470	130
	Great Yarmouth	2,400	90
	Mid Suffolk	750	40
	Suffolk Coastal	1,210	40
	Waveney	2,250	110

Sources:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Recipient counts are taken on the last day of the month unless otherwise stated.
2. **The effect of Tax Credits:** The figures in this table are affected by the introduction of CTC in April 2003. CTC replaced the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA (IB)) for those with a Tax Credits award.

Income Support

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
4. Income Support replaced Supplementary Benefit in April 1988.
5. From 1988 Lone parents are defined as single people with dependants, not in receipt of a pensioner or disability premium. Prior to this lone parent estimates shown are on a comparable basis, and are lone parents not falling within any of the other statistical groups.
6. Dependent children are those aged under 16, together with young adults aged 16 to under 19 and still in full time education, for whom an

additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.

Income-based JSA

7. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. '-' denotes nil or negligible.
8. Figures have been taken from 5% sample data and uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
9. Dependent children are those aged under 16, together with young adults aged 16 to under 19 and still in full time education, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.

Housing / Council Tax Benefit

10. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
11. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
12. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
13. Number of Child Dependents: Only count child dependents resident in the household on the extract date who are less than 20 years old.
14. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. HB data is available monthly from November 2008 and August 2013 is the most recent available.
15. Council Tax Benefit (CTB) data is up to February 2013, which is the latest data available.

Income-based ESA

16. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
17. The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date - this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim. Data in this table is for those receiving Income Based ESA.
18. Dependent children are those aged under 16, together with young adults aged 16 to under 19 and still in full time education, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.
19. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008.