# Freedom of Information request 2013-695

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# Information request

Please could you provide, for 2011/12, or the latest available year, the number of people who claimed under the categories below for the following regions; England, Wales, North East, Essex and Suffolk.

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),

Income-based Employment and Support Allowance,

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

# **DWP** response

Pension Credit.

benefits

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 <u>child dependents</u> 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 dependents for each benefit <u>separately</u>. These figures <u>will</u> 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Please note that the figures given for **Income-based Employment and Support Allowance** are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.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 in England, North East, Wales, Essex and Suffolk and of which those with 3 or more child dependents: May 2012

Benefit	Area	Number of	Of which those
		recipients	with 3 or more
			child
			dependents
Income Support	Total	1,417,050	180,410
	England	1,199,250	159,840
	North East	74,120	8,550
	Wales	82,130	9,430
	Essex	34,330	4,690
	Suffolk	11,490	1,560
Income-based	Total	1,217,400	53,600
Jobseekers	England	1,040,600	47,700
Allowance	North East	76,400	2,800
	Wales	63,500	2,700
	Essex	29,100	1,200
	Suffolk	10,500	500
Housing Benefit	Total	5,031,740	374,950
	England	4,295,670	336,100
	North East	268,710	15,890
	Wales	251,310	18,100
	Essex	120,520	9,250
	Suffolk	48,630	3,380
Council Tax	Total	5,922,410	393,220
Benefit	England	5,026,750	352,710
	North East	331,560	16,980
	Wales	330,040	19,330
	Essex	148,440	9,730
	Suffolk	60,080	3,520

Income-based	Total	740,410	35,010
Employment and	England	617,720	30,710
Support	North East	38,020	1,650
Allowance	Wales	43,500	2,120
	Essex	16,110	860
	Suffolk	5,920	240

#### 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.
- Essex consists of the following Local Authorities; Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendering and Uttlesford and the Unitary Authorities; Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.
- 3. Suffolk consists of the following Local Authorities: Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St Edmundsbury, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.
- 4. 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

- 5. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
- 6. Income Support replaced Supplementary Benefit in April 1988.
- 7. From 1988 Lone parents are defined as single people with dependents, 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.
- 8. Dependant 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

- 9. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
- 10. Figures have been taken from 5% sample data and uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
- 11. Dependant 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

- 12. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
- 13. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
- 14. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
- 15. Number of Child Dependents: Only count child dependents resident in the household on the extract date who are less than 20 years old.
- 16. 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 November 2012 is the most recent available.

## Income-based ESA

- 17. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
- 18. 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.
- 19. Dependant 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.
- 20. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008.

You may be interested to know that the Department published a response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 titled: **Number of children in out of work benefit households: May 2011** which can be found via the link below (Reference: 2012-3222):

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/PQ\_FOI/index.php?page=foi