

Appendix G: Quantitative Analysis of the Subsidy Database

Introduction

- G.1 This appendix sets out our quantitative analysis of the subsidy database. It explores the distribution of subsidies awarded under the Act by collating available information from the database relating to subsidy award volume, value, sector, location, beneficiary, instrument type, and the type of public authority granting them.
- G.2 We first describe the main findings of the analysis. We then set out the methodology and limitations of this analysis and present the results in detail.

Main Findings

- G.3 Between 4 January 2023 and 31 December 2025, a total number of 33,950 subsidies with an estimated value of £156.6 billion were recorded in the database.¹
- (a) The large majority of these were awarded under schemes (95% by volume and 93% by value).
 - (b) The smallest subsidy awarded had a value of £131,² and the largest subsidy awarded was around £50.3 billion.
 - (c) Half of all subsidies had a value of £234,023 or less (the median value), and the average (mean) subsidy value was substantially larger at £4.6 million. This suggests that the data is heavily 'right-skewed' (ie a few very large subsidies pull up the average).
- G.4 Subsidies were awarded to a range of sectors throughout the period, and subsidy value varies substantially across these. Among the sectors that appear in the database:
- (a) Sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply') received the largest total subsidy value (around £109 billion, 70% of the total subsidy value awarded).

¹ Subsidy values should be interpreted as estimates for the purposes of this analysis due to the limitations relating to calculating them using the database. For example, the value of some subsidy awards may be an explicit estimate of unknown future amounts, or provided as a range, and/or may be attributed to an individual year on the database despite the subsidy payments being spread across more than one year, such as Contracts for Difference awards. Limitations are discussed in detail in the Methodology section.

² We note that four subsidies were recorded on the subsidy database for 2025 with £0 value.

- (b) Sector A ('Agriculture, forestry and fishing') received the largest volume of subsidy awards (around 16% of the total number of subsidies awarded).
- (c) Sector T ('Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use') received the least subsidies by value and volume (less than 1% of total value and volume).

G.5 We have also assessed the relative subsidy value awarded per sector, which captures the total subsidy value awarded to a sector relative to that sector's size. This adjusts the total subsidy value awarded to each sector during the period according to the database by the sector's five-year (2019 to 2023) average Gross Value Added (GVA), obtained from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). This is useful for comparing sectors of different sizes and levels of productivity, such as those that feature in the database.

- (a) Sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply') had the largest relative subsidy value, with 395% of the five-year average GVA awarded in subsidies throughout the period.³
- (b) This is followed by sector H ('Transport and storage') at 24%.

G.6 The database shows that subsidies are awarded throughout the UK, and the total value of subsidies awarded varied by region. Notably, East of England received the largest total subsidy value (approximately £67 billion, 45% of the total subsidy value awarded). This was mostly driven by subsidies in sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply').

G.7 Beneficiaries that appeared in the database varied in size, with approximately 31% of subsidies by value and 79% by volume awarded to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Of the remainder, the vast majority went to large firms and a very small share went to firms whose size was not specified.

G.8 We were able to observe how the number of subsidies recorded varied across individual beneficiaries. In particular:

- (a) Approximately 73% of beneficiaries that received a subsidy only did so once.
- (b) Approximately 26% of beneficiaries received more than one but fewer than 10 subsidies.
- (c) Less than 1% of beneficiaries received 10 or more subsidies.

³ As explained in more detail in the Methodology section below, GVA data is used in this analysis to reflect the average contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) made by an individual sector. This may be smaller, equal to, or larger than the total subsidy value awarded to the sector (which could include future anticipated payments over many years). If a sector had a total subsidy value that exceeded its contribution to GDP (captured by GVA), its relative subsidy value will be more than 100%.

- G.9 Amongst the instruments that public authorities can use to provide subsidies that appeared in the database, direct grants were the most frequently used (56% of subsidy awards by volume) and the 'other instruments' category accounted for the largest share of value (36%).⁴
- G.10 There were three streamlined routes for awarding subsidies in operation between 2023 and 2025. The database shows that streamlined routes accounted for a small share of the total volume (2%) and value (less than 1%) of subsidies awarded throughout the period. The Research, Development and Innovation streamlined route was the most frequently used in terms of both volume and value, accounting for around 99% of the total volume and value of subsidies awarded under streamlined routes on the database.
- G.11 The Database included 248 uniquely named public authorities awarding subsidies, and we have categorised these by institutional type by harmonising public authority names between the database and the ONS Public Sector Classification Guide (March 2026). Based on those that could be harmonised:
- (a) UK government departments awarded a large majority of subsidies by value (90%), followed by Scottish Government and its departments (3%), local authorities, UK government arm's length bodies, and other devolved governments and their departments.
 - (b) Overall, there were 171 local authorities identified, which awarded approximately £4.2 billion in subsidies.
 - (c) Within UK government, DESNZ awarded the largest total value of subsidies (82% of total subsidy value awarded), followed by HMRC (4%).
- G.12 Subsidies or Schemes of Particular Interest (SSoPI) are awards with a value greater than the SSoPI threshold, meaning that they must be referred to the SAU.⁵ Our analysis of the £10 million threshold value found (i) limited evidence of an unexpected frequency of subsidies with a value just below the SSoPI threshold, and (ii) no evidence of an unexpected frequency of subsidies with a value just above the SSoPI threshold. As a result, there is insufficient evidence in the database to conclude that there has been a substantial distortion to public authorities' decisions on subsidy value due to the SSoPI threshold value.⁶

⁴ 'Other instruments' is a category capturing awards in the subsidy database that do not fall into one of the following: direct grant, loan, equity, tax or rate relief, provision of goods and services, purchase of goods and services, direct grant with other instruments, and contracts for difference.

⁵ [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 10.3.

⁶ We note that our findings may differ to the results of other work on the topic, for example the CMA Microeconomics Unit's research on UK industrial policies ([Industrial policies: new evidence for the UK](#)). This is likely to be the result of differences in methodology and interpretation, which we set out in the next section.

G.13 Overall 2,078 Minimum Financial Assistance (MFA) and 62 Subsidies of Particular Economic Interest Assistance (SPEI Assistance) awards were recorded,⁷ representing a total value of £301 million (£290 million in MFA and £11 million in SPEI Assistance awards). Based on public authority names that could be harmonised with the ONS Public Sector Classification Guide, local authorities awarded over half of the volume of MFA (61%) and SPEI Assistance (58%) subsidies. Our analysis found insufficient evidence to conclude that (i) public authorities are adjusting a significant proportion of their awards due to the MFA threshold value, or that (ii) public authorities are adjusting their awards due to the SPEI Assistance threshold value.

Methodology

G.14 In this section we set out the more detailed aspects of the methodology for our analysis. This includes the data sources, analytical and data cleaning assumptions, and wider limitations to the analysis.

G.15 The data underlying this analysis comes from the subsidy database and the ONS.

Subsidy Database

G.16 The subsidy database is a statutory requirement under the Subsidy Control Act 2022,⁸ designed to ensure transparency and accountability in the award of subsidies across the UK. It is operated and maintained by the Department for Business and Trade and populated by public authorities.⁹ Details of what information must be uploaded can be found in the Subsidy Control (Subsidy Database Information Requirements) Regulations 2022.¹⁰

G.17 The subsidy database provides four datasets,¹¹ including information on:

- (a) Standalone Subsidy Awards;
- (b) Subsidy Awards under Schemes;
- (c) Subsidy Schemes; and
- (d) Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) and Services of Public Economic Interest Assistance (SPEI Assistance) Subsidy Awards.

⁷ Subsidies of Public Economic Interest (SPEI) were also recorded outside of the dedicated MFA and SPEI Assistance dataset. These have not been included in the SPEI Assistance analysis.

⁸ [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#), section 32.

⁹ Public authorities have a statutory duty to upload details of subsidy schemes and subsidy awards to the database. Whilst DBT maintains the database and may contact public authorities where information appears to be missing, incorrect or unclear, public authorities are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the data they upload. See [Statutory Guidance](#) paragraph 12.1 to 12.11.

¹⁰ [The Subsidy Control \(Subsidy Database Information Requirements\) Regulations 2022](#).

¹¹ Available at [View subsidies awarded by UK public authorities - GOV.UK](#).

- G.18 The datasets contain information on subsidy awards, with each entry including:
- (a) The value of the subsidy (or range of values);¹²
 - (b) The beneficiary of the award (identified by a name and an ID number);¹³
 - (c) The size of the beneficiary;¹⁴
 - (d) The sector or sectors to which the award relates, at the broad SIC-1 (Section) level;¹⁵
 - (e) The date of the award;
 - (f) The instrument type (for example direct grant, loan, equity stake);
 - (g) The purpose of the subsidy (for example Research and Development, Environmental Protection, or Cultural or Heritage);
 - (h) The region of the economic activity to which the subsidy or scheme relates;¹⁶ and
 - (i) The public authority granting the award.
- G.19 The datasets were downloaded on 31 March 2026, and the analysis considers subsidies awarded during the period 4 January 2023 to 31 December 2025, based on the award dates listed in the database.¹⁷
- G.20 We created one dataset containing all information on published standalone awards and awards under schemes for the purposes of this analysis. This combines the Standalone Subsidy Awards and Subsidy Awards under Schemes datasets, and supplements this with variables featuring scheme-level information from the Subsidy Schemes dataset. MFA and SPEI Assistance awards have been analysed separately, using the dedicated MFA and SPEI Assistance dataset from the database.¹⁸

¹² Public authorities may not be able to provide an exact subsidy value because it is unknown ex-ante, for example tax relief rate subsidies will depend on beneficiaries' future taxable revenues and/or returns subject to the tax rate relief. In such cases an estimate or range is provided.

¹³ The data contains several company ID types including Charity Number, Company Registration Number, UTR Number, VAT Number, and Registered Society Number.

¹⁴ Note that DBT changed the data entry convention for beneficiary size over time. This has resulted in less granular recipient size data in recent years, making this variable less analytically informative.

¹⁵ For example 'Manufacturing', 'Construction', and 'Arts, entertainment and recreation'.

¹⁶ There is a set of region options for public authorities to choose from. The information is recorded for areas of different sizes, including the country level (eg Scotland), English areas (eg London, and East Anglia), or broader categories (eg UK-wide). For the purposes of this analysis, an additional 'multi-region' category has been created which contains subsidies or schemes that have been entered with multiple regions.

¹⁷ This includes 33,950 subsidy awards, made up of 1,829 standalone awards and 32,121 awards under 401 schemes.

¹⁸ We note that other subsidy database datasets include SPEI awards. These have not been included in the SPEI Assistance analysis.

G.21 Several analytical and data cleaning assumptions were then used to prepare the datasets for quantitative analysis:

- (a) Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the mid-point of the range has been used.¹⁹
- (b) All awards registered at the UK-wide level or to multiple regions have been excluded from any location-based analysis.²⁰ As set out in the database requirements, we have assumed that the location listed on the database represents the region of the economic activity to which the subsidy or scheme relates.²¹ However, we note that there may be limitations in interpreting this data as this may not always be the case.²²
- (c) Awards with multiple spending sectors listed have been excluded from any sectoral analysis.²³
- (d) Instrument type has been simplified into nine core categories for comparison.²⁴
- (e) Beneficiary names have been cleaned to standardise them. However, beneficiaries may have been known by multiple names throughout the period or had variations of their name input into the data. Therefore a beneficiary may still appear under more than one name in the data and not be recognised as a single beneficiary in the analysis.
- (f) Beneficiary size has been simplified into two categories: small and medium enterprise (SME), and large.²⁵ The analysis of subsidy awards by beneficiary size excludes database entries for which size was not specified.
- (g) Public authority names have been cleaned to standardise them. Public authorities often submit different names over time or are known by multiple names,²⁶ and various departments have undergone restructuring since 2023 (most prominently the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial

¹⁹ 13,832 observations provide a ranged value (approximately 41% of the data from the subsidy database used for this analysis), all of which are tax or rate relief subsidies. All awards used in the analysis of SSoPI (performed for standalone awards only), MFA and SPEI Assistance subsidies provided an exact value.

²⁰ 2,167 observations included multiple regions (around 6% of the data from the subsidy database used for this analysis). Location analysis also excludes subsidy awards registered to the Isle of Man and Channel Islands, of which there were 2 observations.

²¹ See [The Subsidy Control \(Subsidy Database Information Requirements\) Regulations 2022](#), paragraph 3(n).

²² For example, the subsidy database may only list one region (such as the location of the beneficiary's headquarters) where a subsidy relates to multiple regions or the whole UK.

²³ 44 observations included multiple spending sectors.

²⁴ The categories are direct grant, loan, equity, tax or rate relief, provision of goods and services, purchase of goods and services, direct grant with other instruments, contracts for difference, and other instruments.

²⁵ Since 2024 the subsidy database has categorised beneficiary size as 'SME', 'Large' and 'Not specified'. Before this the subsidy database included a greater number of size categories ('Micro', 'Small', 'SME', 'Medium', 'Large' and 'Not specified'), which have been allocated to the appropriate broad category of 'SME' or 'Large'.

²⁶ For example, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council is also known as Wakefield Council.

Strategy (BEIS)). Therefore, certain subsidies under former departments have been reallocated to the new department responsible for the subsidy.

- (h) As noted previously, MFA and SPEI Assistance awards have been analysed separately. MFA and SPEI Assistance relate to subsidies which fall below a certain threshold value based on the cumulative value of both types of awards received by a beneficiary within a defined period. As subsidies appear in the data as individual awards, we have cumulated the value of MFA and SPEI Assistance across each beneficiary using the beneficiary name variable. The guidance provides information on the thresholds used in the analyses.²⁷ For avoidance of doubt, we have interpreted these in the following way:
- (i) A beneficiary can only receive MFA subsidies if they have not yet received MFA (and SPEI Assistance) awards cumulating to £315,000 within the period.²⁸ The subsidy which takes them to £315,001 would not be classified as MFA.
 - (ii) A beneficiary can only receive SPEI Assistance subsidies if they have not yet received SPEI Assistance (and MFA) awards cumulating to £725,000 within the period.²⁹ The subsidy which takes them to £725,001 would not be classified as SPEIA.
 - (iii) Where a beneficiary has received awards in separate cumulation periods, these have entered the analysis of thresholds separately.³⁰
 - (iv) We note that the threshold analysis may be limited by issues relating to cumulating subsidy value across each beneficiary.³¹ We also note that when cumulating subsidy value, there appear to be instances which breach the thresholds (eg MFA and SPEI Assistance cumulating to above £725,000).
- (i) The Subsidies or Schemes of Particular Interest (SSoPI) threshold is also defined in the guidance.³² Under the subsidy control regime implemented by the Act, subsidies and schemes with award values that exceed the SSoPI threshold are required to be referred to the SAU for evaluation.³³ We have assessed the distribution of standalone subsidies awarded during the regime

²⁷ See [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 7.2 and 7.4 for MFA, and paragraph 7.21 to 7.22 for SPEI Assistance.

²⁸ The period is defined in the guidance as the elapsed part of the current financial year and the two financial years immediately prior (see [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 7.2).

²⁹ The period is defined in the guidance as the elapsed part of the current financial year and the two financial years immediately prior (see [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 7.22).

³⁰ For example, if a beneficiary received separate MFA subsidies in January 2023 and December 2025, these enter the threshold analysis separately as they are in two different cumulation periods.

³¹ As set out in paragraph G.21(e), one beneficiary may appear under more than one name in the data. This means that MFA or SPEI Assistance granted to a single beneficiary may be allocated to more than one beneficiary in this analysis.

³² [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 10.5.

³³ [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 10.3.

around the SSoPI threshold to understand if there is any bunching in value just below this. In relation to this analysis, we note that:

- (i) Subsidies awarded in sensitive sectors (which face a lower SSoPI threshold) have been included because sector information in the database is too aggregated to isolate these.³⁴ This means that the distribution below the threshold may include SSoPIs.
- (ii) The analysis has not been conducted for subsidies under schemes because the SSoPI classification is set at the scheme-level, based on the expected values that individual awards under the scheme may take at the time of its creation. This means that a subsidy awarded under a scheme could be a SSoPI even if it does not have a value that exceeds the threshold.
- (iii) The analysis considers subsidies awarded from January 2023 to the end of July 2025, during which the threshold was set at £10 million. The period is shorter than that of the other analyses because the threshold increased in August 2025 (to £25 million), resulting in limited data availability to study the new threshold at the time of this analysis.³⁵

G.22 In addition to those resulting from the assumptions listed above, this analysis may feature the following limitations which reduce its analytical power:

- (a) There may be a degree of misreporting through human error (eg in the value of subsidy awards) due to the manual nature of data entry on the database or mischaracterising a payment as a subsidy within the database. For the purposes of this analysis, we have not sought to correct entries for which there is insufficient information to fully understand if there are inaccuracies.
- (b) Awards with a value below £100,000 are included in the analyses where they were uploaded to the database, however public authorities are not required to upload subsidy awards under schemes, MFA awards, and SPEI awards valued below £100,000.³⁶ Therefore the analysis may not include many low value subsidies, and it is impossible to tell how substantial this gap in the data is.
- (c) There may be some subsidies for 2025 that are not yet on the database and are therefore not included in the analysis. Most subsidies must be uploaded to the database within three calendar months of the confirmation decision to

³⁴ A full list of sensitive sectors is provided in paragraph 10.10 of the [Statutory Guidance](#).

³⁵ See [The Subsidy Control \(Subsidies and Schemes of Interest or Particular Interest\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2025](#).

³⁶ See [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 12.13 for subsidy awards under schemes; paragraph 7.3 for MFA; and paragraph 7.22 for SPEI.

give the subsidy, however subsidies in the form of a tax measure have an upload deadline one year from the date of the tax declaration.³⁷

- (d) The database may not always identify the correct region for subsidy spend (defined in the guidance as the location of the economic activity being subsidised).³⁸ Subsidy spend may therefore be across multiple regions or the whole UK while the database may list only one region (eg the location of the beneficiary's head office).³⁹
- (e) Variables may have contained missing entries, for example the variable indicating if an award constitutes a Subsidy or Scheme of Interest (SSoI) or Subsidy or Scheme of Particular Interest (SSoPI) is blank for a number of observations.
- (f) It was not always possible to identify all observations that should be attributed to one beneficiary. Whilst there are limitations to identifying unique beneficiaries using the beneficiary name and company ID number variables,⁴⁰ we have used beneficiary name for any analysis requiring identification of unique beneficiaries.
- (g) There may be instances where the monetary amount of some large individual subsidies has been double counted on the database. For example, we have not sought to exclude any capitalisation subsidies which may have been used to provide subsidies to other beneficiaries.
- (h) Subsidy awards may be attributed to an individual year on the database, despite the subsidy payments being spread across more than one year.⁴¹ Therefore the number and/or value of subsidies received by beneficiaries each year may differ to what is recorded on the database.

³⁷ See [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraphs 12.14, 12.22 and 12.24.

³⁸ See [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 12.32.

³⁹ For example, Eon is a UK-wide business with headquarters in the West Midlands ([E.ON ENERGY SOLUTIONS LIMITED overview - Find and update company information - GOV.UK](#)). It received a subsidy under the Green Home Finance Accelerator Scheme which targets a UK-wide economic activity and is granted by a UK-wide public authority ([Scheme SC10664 - Search for UK Subsidies - GOV.UK - Public user search subsidy scheme details page](#)). However the spending region is defined as the West Midlands, suggesting it may have been entered based on the beneficiary's head office location ([Award 10651 - Search for UK subsidies - GOV.UK - Public user search subsidy award details page](#)). [Accessed 03/03/2026]

⁴⁰ As noted previously (see paragraph G.21(e)), the beneficiary name entered on the subsidy database may not be identical across all subsidies it received. In addition, the company ID number variable available from the subsidy database may also not be identical across all awards received by a single beneficiary. For instance, a beneficiary may have been entered with variations in their ID number, or an ID number that appears to have no meaning (for example various beneficiaries appear under the Company Registration Number '000000' or '000000000').

⁴¹ For example, Contracts for Difference tend to pay out across more than one year but are attributed to an individual year in the data. Similarly, we note that the subsidy database included four subsidies under the Enterprise Capital Funds programme in 2025 with £0 value. This is because 'each fund typically has a life of 10 years with the option to extend a further 2 years. Profits are typically paid towards the latter half of the fund life as assets are realised and therefore the actual amount of subsidy cannot be reported when the award is published (hence subsidy amount below entered as £0)' (see for example [Award 52092 - Search for UK subsidies - GOV.UK - Public user search subsidy award details page](#)).

- (i) Subsidy value is entered onto the database in nominal terms at current prices. This means that values are not adjusted to account for inflation, and therefore caution should be taken when interpreting value and making comparisons over time.

ONS Gross Value Added

- G.23 The ONS produces a dataset including annual estimates of balanced UK regional GVA,⁴² including current price estimates, chain volume measures and implied deflators broken down by industry. GVA is a measure of the contribution to GDP made by an individual producer, industry, sector, or region.⁴³
- G.24 GVA data is used here to reflect spending sector size. In particular, ONS balanced GVA data by sector for the UK at current price estimates (to the nearest million pounds) has been used.⁴⁴
- G.25 GVA data has been combined with the data described above to scale subsidy values by sector size at the SIC-1 (Section) level, producing an additional variable capturing relative subsidy value (ie the total subsidy value awarded to a sector relative to that sector's size). This is useful for sector-level analyses as it facilitates comparisons between sectors which have different sizes and productivity levels.
- G.26 At the time of this review, GVA data was available for the years 1998 to 2023. This means contemporaneous GVA data was not available to match the subsidy value data used in this analysis by year. Instead, the unweighted average sector-level GVA for the last five years of available data at the time of analysis (2019 to 2023) was used as the best available proxy for sector-level GVA.⁴⁵ Relative subsidy value was then calculated for each sector by dividing the sector-level total subsidy value measures (for the period 4 January 2023 to end of 2025) by the five-year average sector-level GVA.

ONS Public Sector Classification Guide

- G.27 The ONS provides a Public Sector Classification Guide (PSCG).⁴⁶ This includes a list of organisations and their associated sector classification (eg UK Government,

⁴² See Office for National Statistics (2025), [Regional gross value added \(balanced\) by industry: city and enterprise regions - Office for National Statistics](#).

⁴³ OECD (2008), [OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264055087-en>.

⁴⁴ Office for National Statistics (2025), [Regional gross value added \(balanced\) by industry: all ITL regions - Office for National Statistics](#), Table 1c 'ITL1 & UK current price estimates'.

⁴⁵ We did not use a longer time series for the average GVA as data further from the present is less likely to reflect the current spending sector GVA. An average, rather than the last year of available data, was used because an average will have a smaller risk of reflecting a yearly shock or anomalous activity within a certain sector or region compared to using a single year.

⁴⁶ See [Public sector classification guide and forward work plan - Office for National Statistics](#). [Accessed 31 March 2026]

Local Government) and sponsoring entity (eg UK government departments such as DESNZ) alongside other information.

- G.28 The database does not include a classification of a public authority's institutional type (eg UK government department, local authority, or devolved administration). The PSCG was therefore used to produce a variable reflecting the institutional type by harmonising organisation names with public authorities named in the database. The PSCG is updated periodically, and this analysis uses the edition published on 20 March 2026.
- G.29 The following analytical and data cleaning assumptions have been used to produce this variable:
- (a) Where necessary, public authority names have been manually edited to match the naming conventions in the PSCG.⁴⁷
 - (b) Public authorities listed as having a sponsoring entity on the PSCG have been classified as UK government arm's length bodies (ALBs), unless the sponsoring entity was listed as itself.⁴⁸
 - (c) Public authorities with a devolved administration listed as the sponsoring entity have been classified as the respective devolved administration (ie Scottish Government, Welsh Government or Northern Ireland Executive) rather than as distinct categories of ALBs.
 - (d) The Local Authority classification of public authority includes those across the whole UK (eg Scottish councils have been classified as Local Authorities and not Scottish Government).
- G.30 A small number of public authority names could not be matched to the PSCG and therefore could not be included in the analysis of subsidy distribution by public authority type.⁴⁹

Results

- G.31 In this section we present in detail the results of our analysis of subsidies contained in the database for the period 2023 to 2025. This includes the analysis of:
- (a) subsidy volume distribution and trends over time

⁴⁷ For example, the database includes the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as a public authority, whereas the ONS PSCG refers to this as DCMS.

⁴⁸ For example, DESNZ is not an ALB even though it has the sponsoring entity listed as DESNZ in the classification guide.

⁴⁹ 11 public authorities could not be matched in the main dataset (accounting for 40 observations), and 5 public authorities granting MFA or SPEI Assistance could not be matched (accounting for 54 observations).

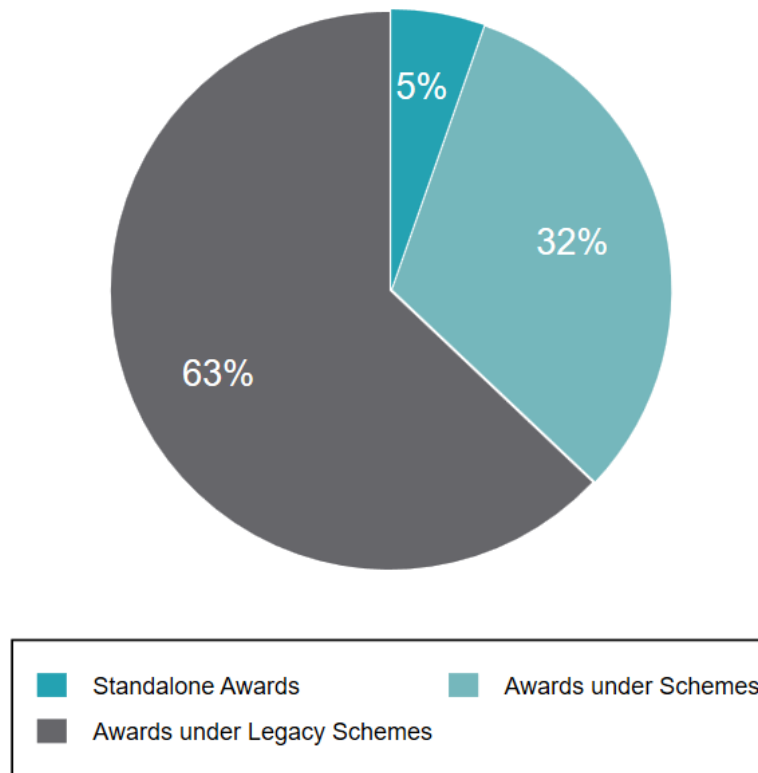
- (b) subsidy value distribution and trends over time;
- (c) sectoral distribution of subsidies;
- (d) regional distribution of subsidies;
- (e) distribution of subsidies by beneficiary size;
- (f) distribution of subsidies by public authority type;
- (g) distribution of subsidies by instrument type;
- (h) distribution of subsidies by Streamlined Routes;
- (i) subsidies or Subsidy Schemes of Particular Interest; and
- (j) Minimum Financial Assistance and Subsidies of Public Economist Interest Assistance.

Subsidy Volume Distribution and Trends Over Time

G.32 Between 4 January 2023 and the end of 2025, a total number of 33,950 subsidies were recorded in the database. Figure G.1 below shows the share of subsidies that were awarded on a standalone basis, under legacy schemes, and under schemes that were made after the introduction of the Act, based on data from the database. This shows that:

- (a) almost two-thirds of subsidies awarded during the regime were awarded through legacy schemes (63%);
- (b) almost one-third (32%) of subsidy awards were made under schemes that began after the Act came into force; and
- (c) standalone awards represented a small share of subsidies (5%).

Figure G.1: Share of Total Volume by Subsidy Type



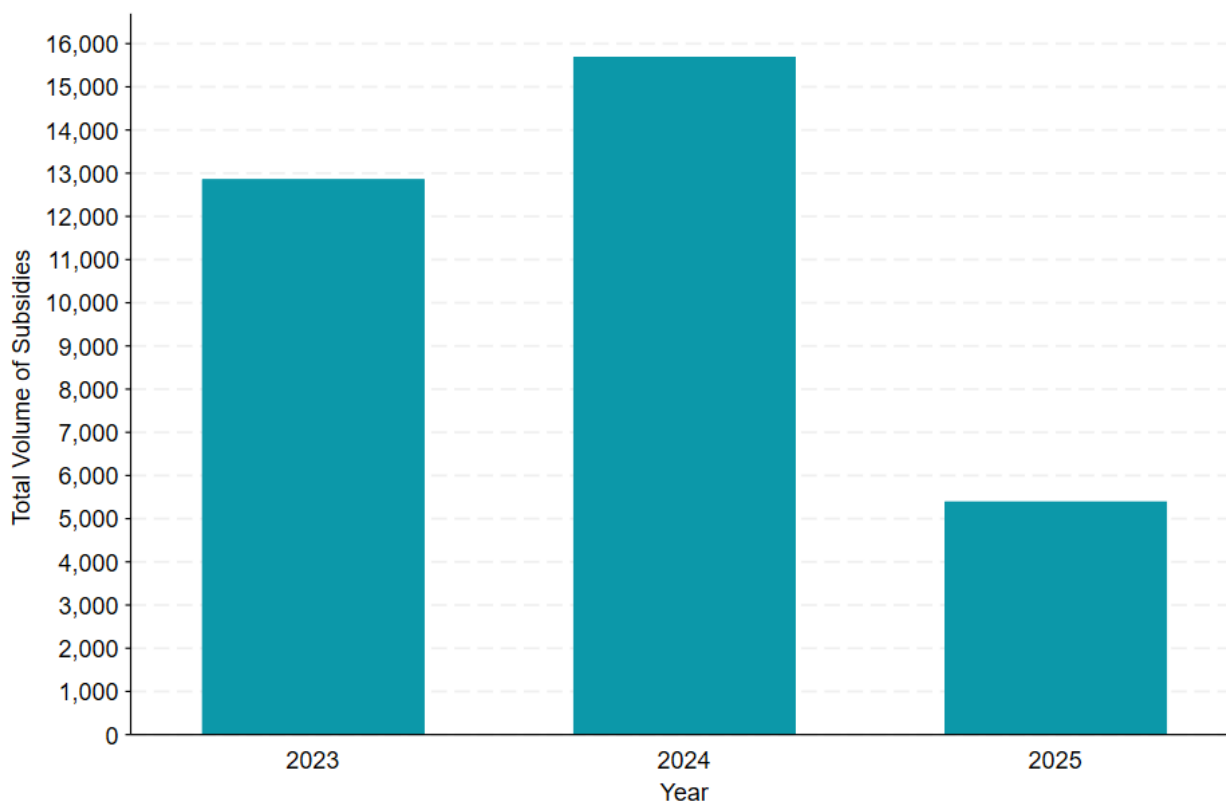
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Legacy schemes are those with a start date that pre-dates the Act based on the start dates listed in the database at the scheme level. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.33 Figure G.2 below shows the annual volume of subsidies awarded under the regime based on data from the database. This shows that:

- (a) the largest volume was awarded in 2024 (15,694 subsidies, representing approximately 46% of total subsidy volume throughout the period);
- (b) the second largest volume was awarded in 2023 (12,860 subsidies, accounting for around 38% of total volume); and
- (c) the smallest number was awarded in 2025 (5,396 subsidies, around 16% of total volume).

Figure G.2: Annual Volume of Subsidies



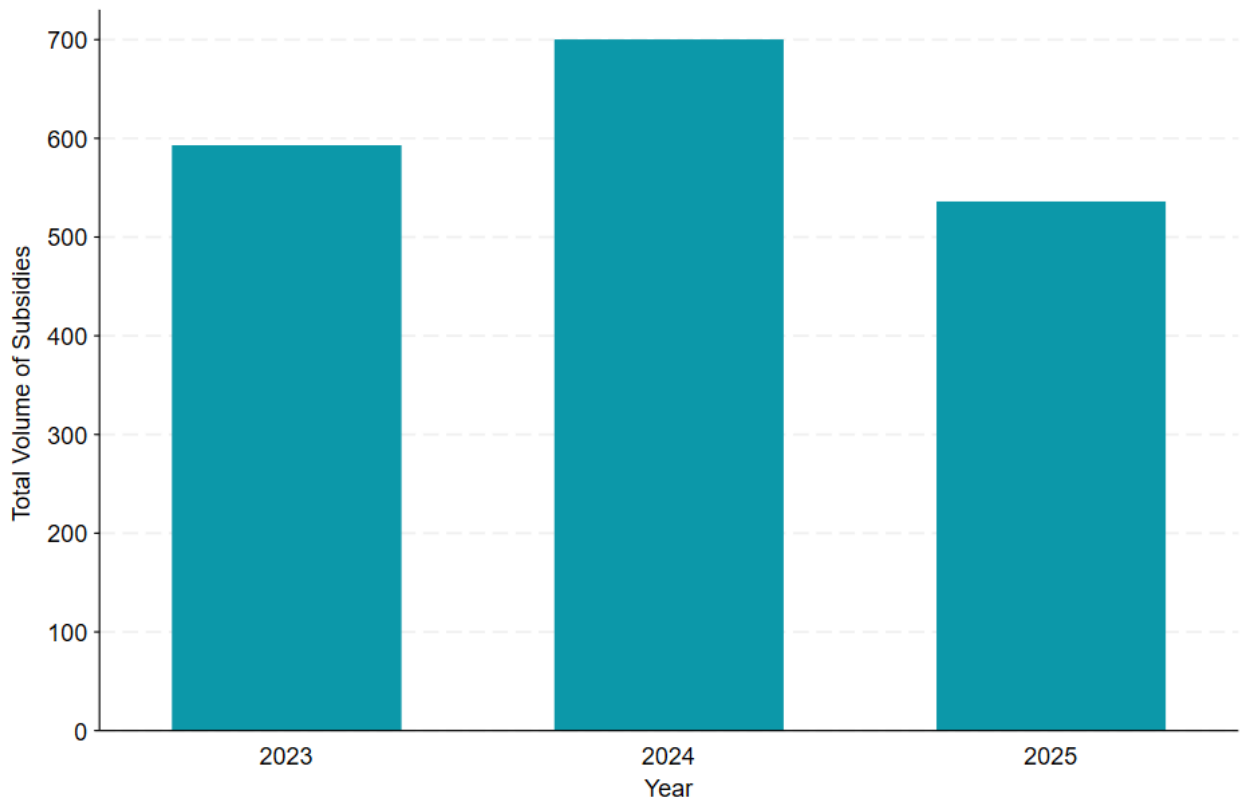
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.34 When considered separately, both the annual volume of subsidy awards granted on a standalone basis and under schemes follow the pattern described above. In particular:

- (a) Figure G.3 shows that, based on data from the database, the greatest volume of standalone subsidies under the regime was awarded in 2024 (700 awards, accounting for 38% of standalone subsidies), and the smallest volume was awarded in 2025 (536, around 29%).
- (b) Figure G.4 shows that, according to data from the database, the volume of subsidies awarded under schemes during the regime was greatest in 2024 (14,994 awards, accounting for 47% of awards under schemes), and smallest in 2025 (4,860 awards, around 15%).

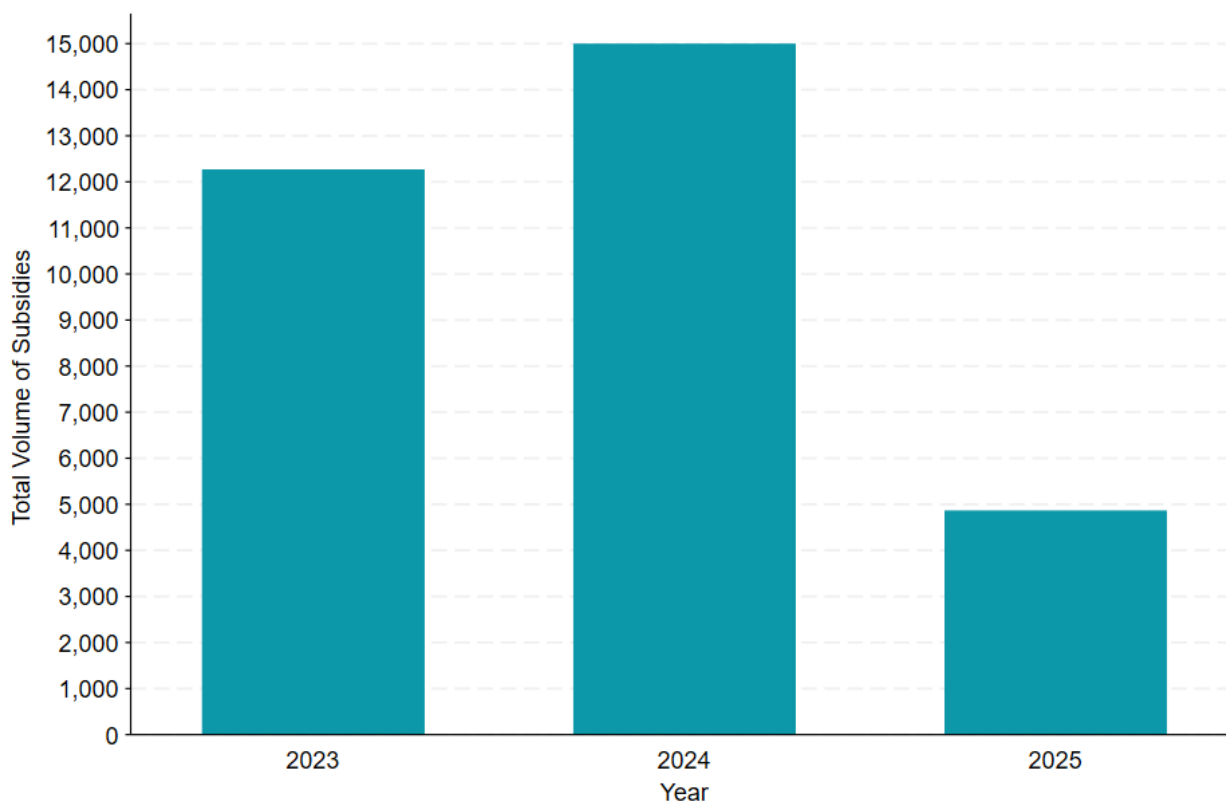
Figure G.3: Annual Volume of Standalone Subsidies



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Subsidies under Schemes are not included. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Figure G.4: Annual Volume of Subsidies under Schemes



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

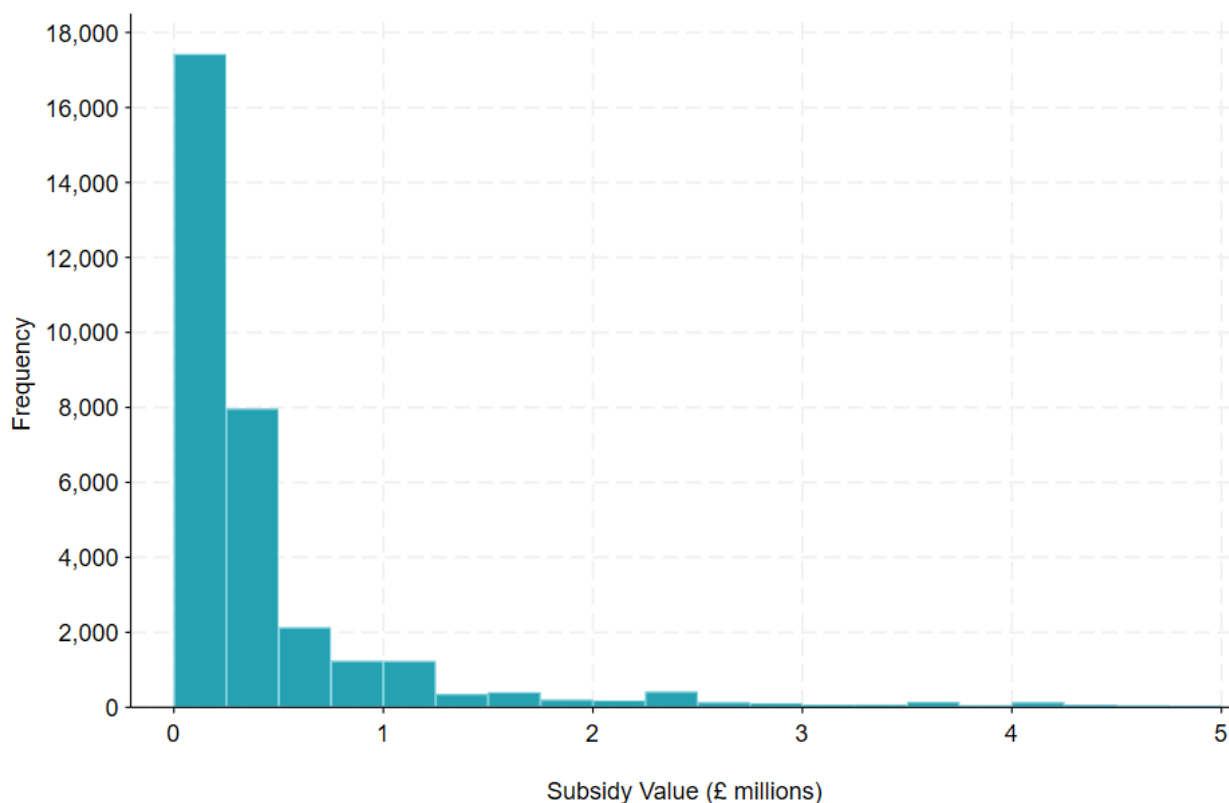
Note: Standalone subsidies are not included. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Subsidy Value Distribution and Trends Over Time

- G.35 Based on data from the database, the value of all subsidies awarded during the period was £156.6 billion. Subsidy awards had a wide range of values, from a minimum of £131 to a maximum of £50.3 billion.⁵⁰
- G.36 The median (50th percentile) subsidy value awarded during the regime was £234,023, meaning that half of all subsidies awarded had a value equal to this or less. The average (mean) subsidy value was significantly higher at £4.6 million, sitting much closer to the 95th percentile subsidy value of £4 million (which just 5% of the data had a value greater than or equal to). As shown in Figure G.5, based on data from the database, the value of subsidy awards during the period is heavily right-skewed, with a much larger volume of lower value subsidies awarded and a few very large subsidies pulling up the average value.

⁵⁰ We note that four subsidies were recorded on the database for 2025 with £0 value.

Figure G.5: Distribution of Subsidy Value Below the Average



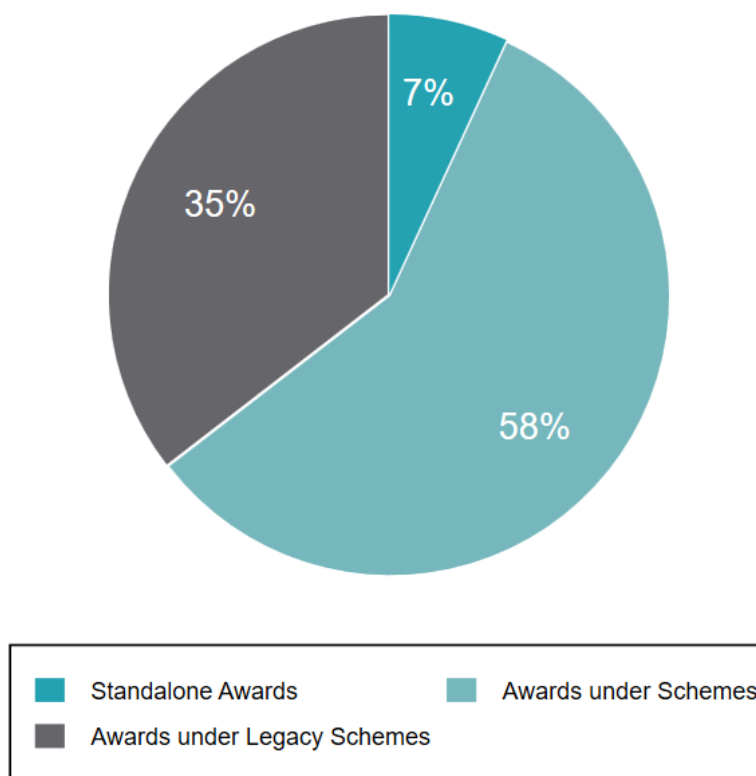
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Subsidy awards with a value greater than the average (mean) rounded to one significant figure (£5 million) have been excluded (1,471 observations). Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Values have not been adjusted to account for inflation. Bars represent subsidy value ranges of £250,000. Histogram bars represent left-inclusive and right-exclusive ranges, meaning the value range includes the lower bound but not the upper bound, except for the final range which is inclusive of all values in the range. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.37 Figure G.6 below shows the share of subsidy value awarded during the regime granted through standalone subsidies, under legacy schemes, and under schemes that started after the introduction of the Act based on data from the database. This shows that:

- (a) over half of subsidy value (58%) was awarded through subsidies under schemes that began after the Act came into force;
- (b) subsidies awarded under legacy schemes accounted for just over a third of the value (35%); and
- (c) standalone awards accounted for a small share of subsidy value (7%).

Figure G.6: Share of Total Value by Subsidy Type



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

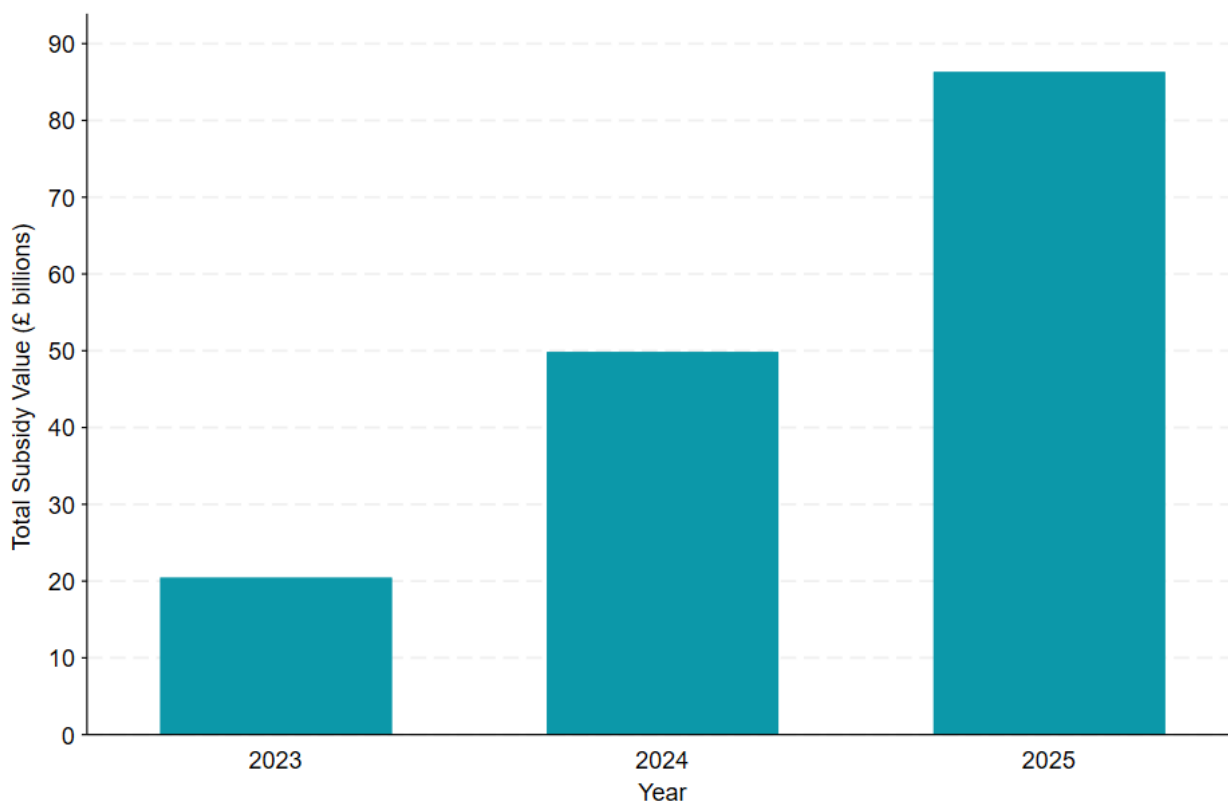
Note: Legacy schemes are those with a start date that pre-dates the Act based on the start dates listed in the database at the scheme level. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Values have not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.38 When Figure G.6 is considered together with Figure G.1, the database indicates that subsidies awarded during the regime through schemes which were introduced after the Act have a higher average value than those awarded under legacy schemes, with almost two-thirds of value and one-third of volume awarded under post-Act schemes compared to just over one-third of value and almost two-thirds of volume awarded under legacy schemes.

G.39 Figure G.7 below shows the annual value of subsidies awarded under the regime based on data from the database. This shows that the total value of subsidies awarded increased each year, from £20.4 billion in 2023 to £86.3 billion in 2025.⁵¹ When considered in the context of Figure G.2, the database indicates that on average subsidy value was greatest in 2025.

⁵¹ Values have not been adjusted to account for inflation, and doing so would alter the results in Figure G.7. Nonetheless, we note that real subsidy value has also increased over time (SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023 – 2025) and ONS CPIH data (2023 – 2025) available at: [Consumer price inflation tables - Office for National Statistics](#), Table 6a [released on 25 March 2026, accessed on 31 March 2026]).

Figure G.7: Annual Value of Subsidies



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

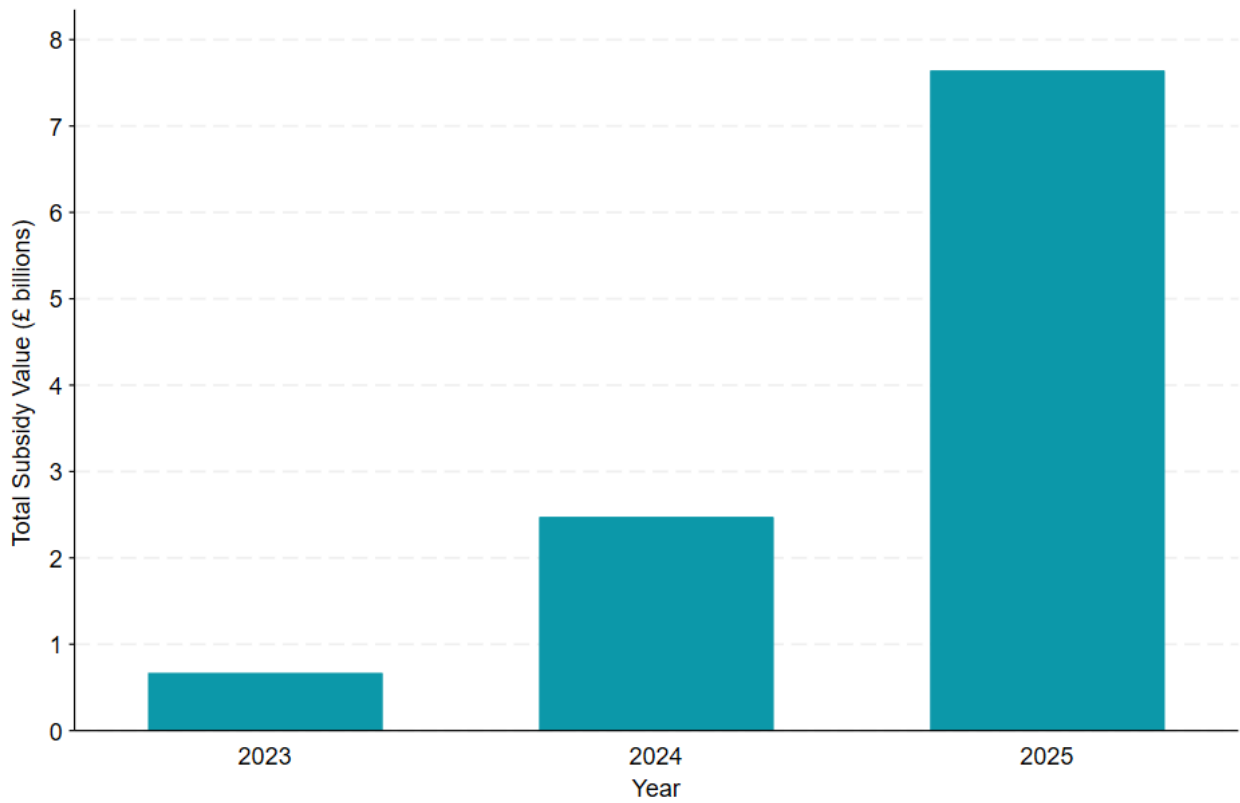
Note: Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.40 When considered separately, both the annual value of subsidies awarded on a standalone basis and under schemes follows the pattern described above. In particular:

- (a) Figure G.8 shows that, based on data from the database, the value of standalone subsidies awarded during the regime was greatest in 2025 (£7.6 billion), compared to a low of £0.7 billion in 2023; and
- (b) Figure G.9 shows that, based on data from the database, the value of subsidies awarded under schemes during the regime was greatest in 2025 (£78.7 billion) and lowest in 2023 (£19.8 billion).⁵²

⁵² Values have not been adjusted to account for inflation and doing so would alter the results in Figures G.7 and G.8. Nonetheless, we note that real subsidy value has also increased over time (SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025) and ONS CPIH data (2023-2025) available at: [Consumer price inflation tables - Office for National Statistics](#), Table 6a [released on 25 March 2026, accessed on 31 March 2026]).

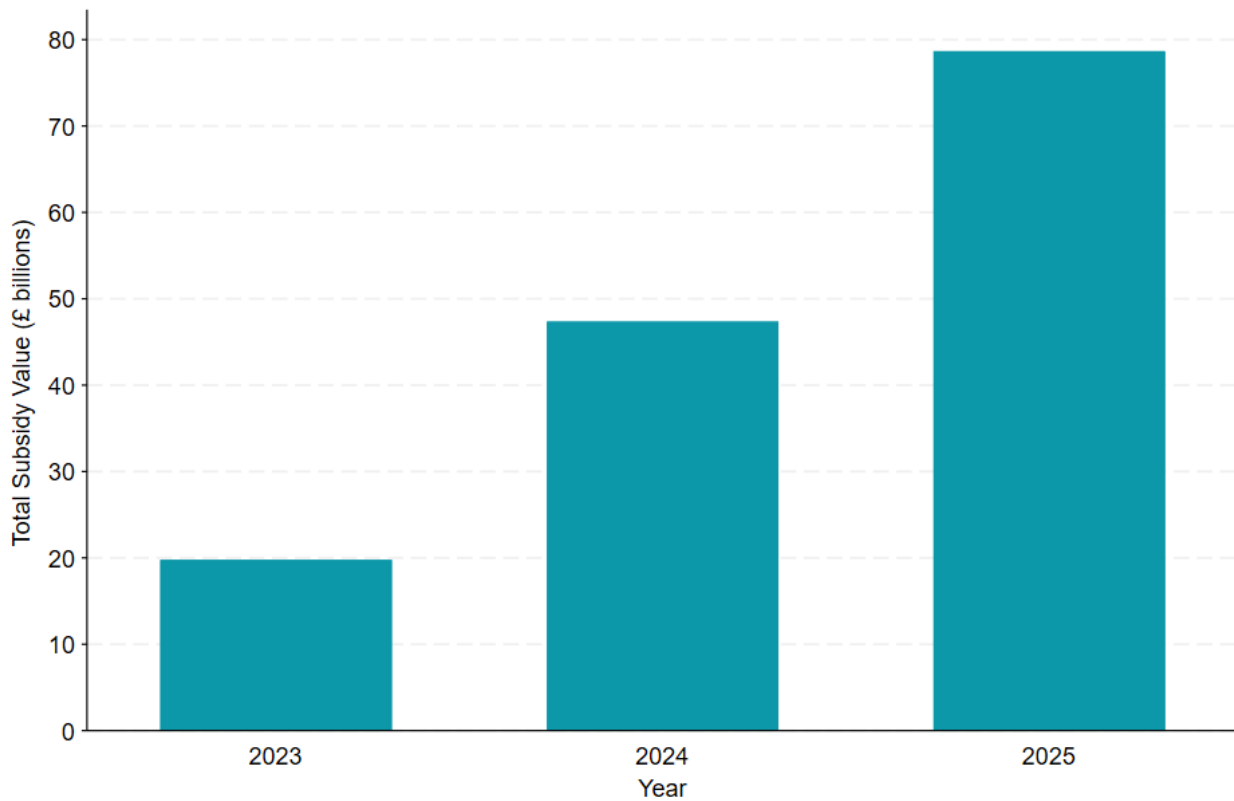
Figure G.8: Annual Value of Standalone Subsidies



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Subsidies under Schemes are not included. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Figure G.9: Annual Value of Subsidies under Schemes



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Standalone subsidies are not included. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Sectoral Distribution of Subsidies

G.41 Subsidies were awarded to a range of sectors during the regime, and the volume and value of subsidies varies substantially across the sectors. Table G.1 sets out SIC-1 (Section) codes and the associated full Section level name based on the UK SIC structure from the ONS.⁵³

⁵³ Office for National Statistics (2022), [UK SIC 2007 - Office for National Statistics](#) [Accessed 31 March 2026].

Table G.1: UK SIC-1 (Section) Codes

<i>SIC-1 Code</i>	<i>Section Name</i>
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	Mining and quarrying
C	Manufacturing
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F	Construction
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	Transport and storage
I	Accommodation and food service activities
J	Information and communication
K	Financial and insurance activities
L	Real estate activities
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities
N	Administrative and support service activities
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P	Education
Q	Human health and social work activities
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation
S	Other service activities
T	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use
U	Activities of extraterritorial organisations

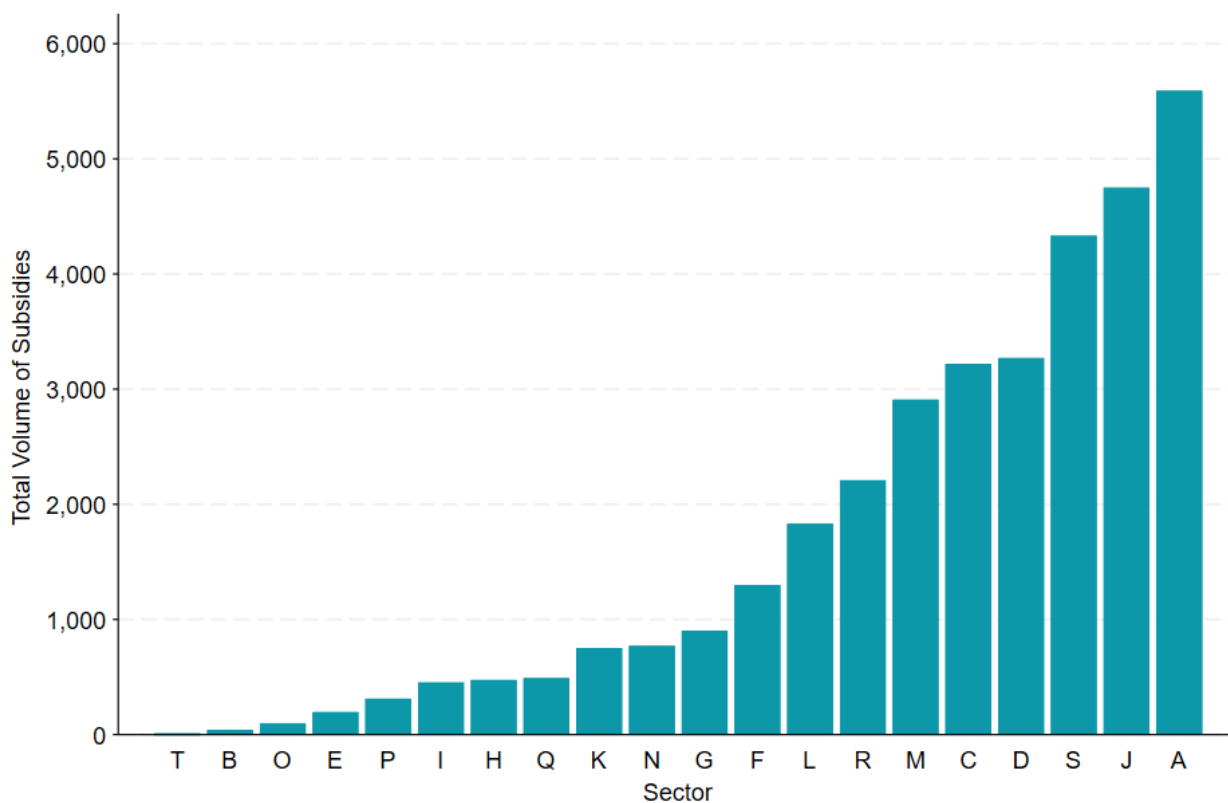
Source: UK Standard Industrial Classification 2007 ([UK SIC 2007 - Office for National Statistics](#)).

Note: Sector U does not appear in the database.

G.42 Figure G.10 shows the total volume of subsidies awarded to each sector throughout the period based on data from the database. This shows that:

- (a) Sector A ('Agriculture, forestry and fishing') received the largest volume of subsidy awards under the regime (5,591 awards, representing 16% of total volume).
- (b) This is followed by sector J ('Information and communication'), which received 4,749 awards (14% of total volume).
- (c) Sector T ('Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use') received the smallest volume of subsidies (6, less than 1% of total volume).

Figure G.10: Total Volume of Subsidies by Sector



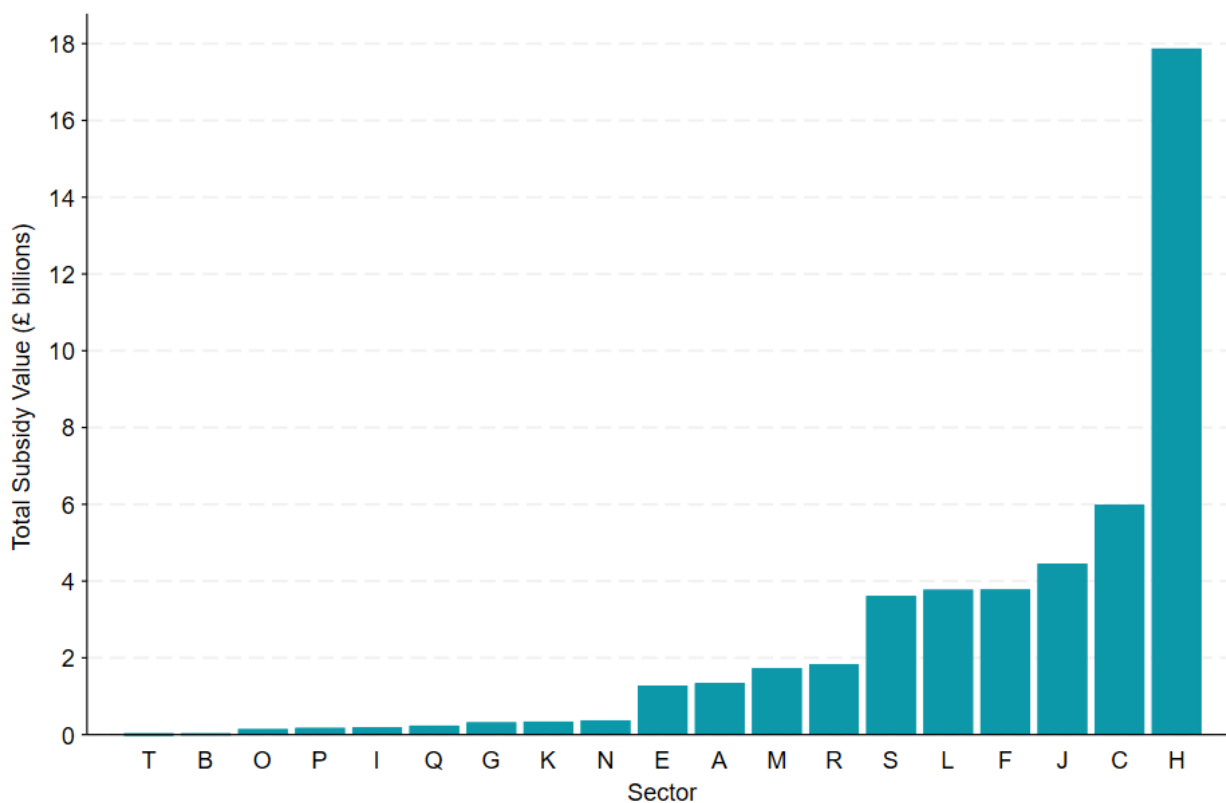
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: See Table G.1 for the Section names associated with the SIC-1 codes included on the figure. Subsidy awards with multiple spending sectors listed in the database have been excluded (44 observations). Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.43 Figure G.11 shows the total value of subsidies awarded to the sectors under the regime based on data from the database. Sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply') is excluded from the figure to allow the scale to remain interpretable. Including this sector would obscure meaningful variation in the value received by other sectors, as it received a significantly larger value than any other sector (approximately £109 billion, around 6 times that of the second largest sector by value). Figure G.11 shows that:

- (a) After sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply'), sector H ('Transport and storage') received the largest subsidy value (around £17.9 billion or 11% of total subsidy value).
- (b) The sector with the third greatest subsidy value received significantly less, with sector C ('Manufacturing') receiving around £6 billion (approximately 4% of total subsidy value).
- (c) Sector T ('Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use') received the smallest subsidy value (£1.2 million, less than 1% of total subsidy value).

Figure G.11: Total Value of Subsidies by Sector



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

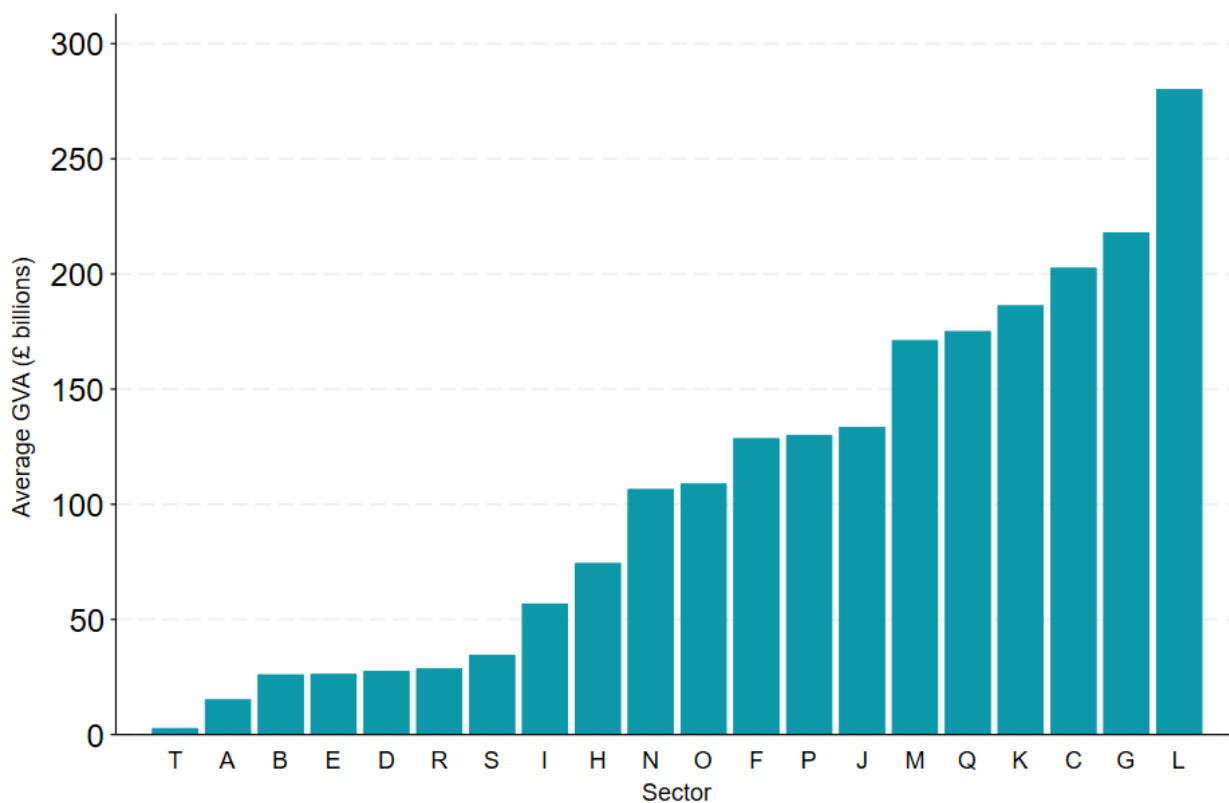
Note: See Table G.1 for the Section names associated with the SIC-1 codes included on the figure. Subsidy awards with multiple spending sectors listed in the database have been excluded (44 observations). Sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply') is excluded from the figure as it is an outlier with significant subsidy value compared to other sectors. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.44 Figure G.12 below shows the size of each sector that appears in the database in terms of five-year (2019 to 2023) average GVA, based on ONS GVA data.⁵⁴ This shows that the sectors have a wide range of sizes. In particular:

- (a) Sector L ('Real estate activities') was the largest, with an average GVA of £280 billion; and
- (b) Sector T ('Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use') was the smallest sector, with an average GVA of approximately £3 billion.

⁵⁴ As set out in the Methodology, GVA can be used to reflect the contribution to GDP made by a sector.

Figure G.12: Average GVA by Sector



Source: SAU analysis of ONS balanced UK regional GVA data by industry (current price estimates) (2019-2023).

Note: See Table G.1 for the Section names associated the SIC-1 codes included on the figure. Average GVA has been calculated as an unweighted average across 2019 to 2023. Industry names in the GVA data have been matched to sectors included in the UK Subsidy Database. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

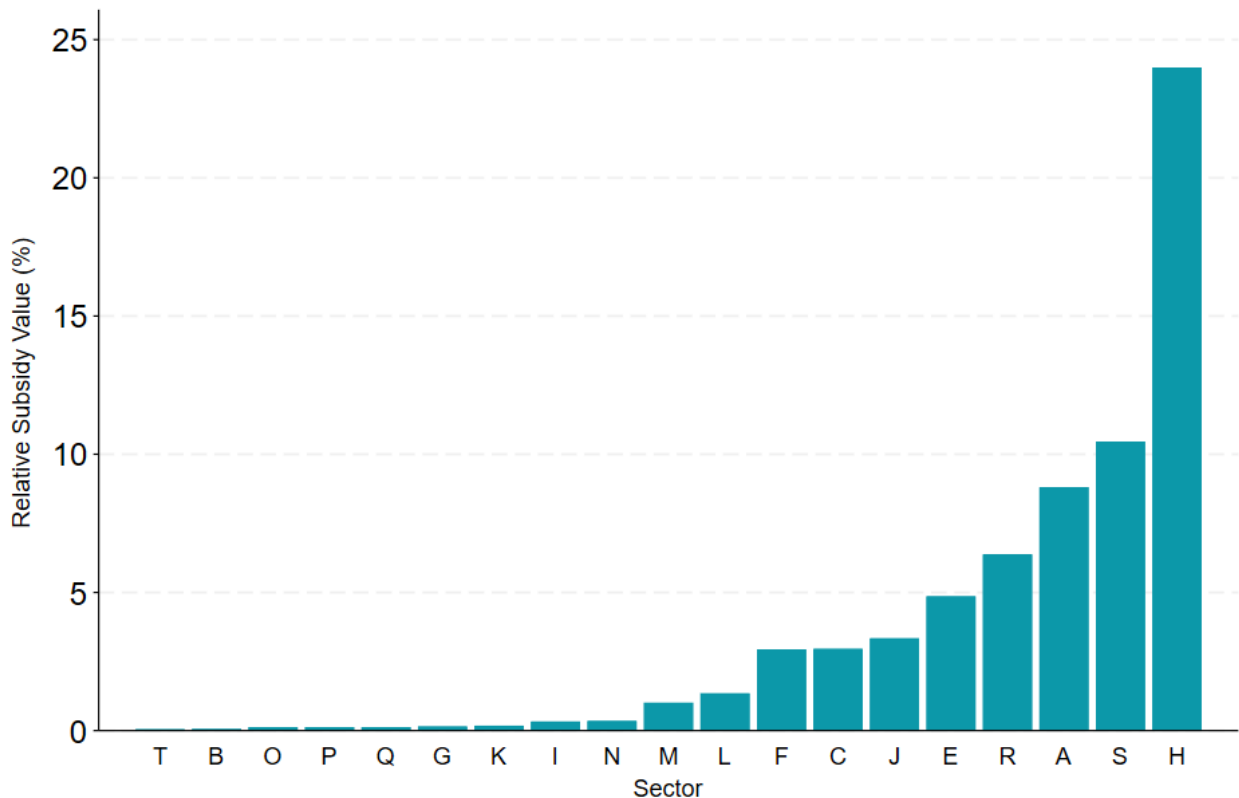
G.45 Figure G.13 shows the relative subsidy value awarded to each sector based on data from the database and GVA data from the ONS.⁵⁵ This is helpful for comparing the subsidy value awarded to each sector given the finding above that the sectors range widely in size. Sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply') is excluded from the figure to allow the scale to remain interpretable. Including this would obscure meaningful variation in other sectors, as it received a significantly larger subsidy value relative to the size of the sector compared to any other (approximately 395%, around 16.5 times that of the second largest sector). Figure G.13 shows that:

- (a) After sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply'), sector H ('Transport and storage') had the largest relative subsidy value, with approximately 24% of its average GVA awarded in subsidies throughout the period.

⁵⁵ As set out in the Methodology section, this represents the total subsidy value awarded to each sector during the regime as a percentage of that sector's five-year (2019 – 2023) average GVA.

- (b) Sector T ('Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use') had the smallest relative subsidy value (0.04%).

Figure G.13: Relative Subsidy Value by Sector



Sources: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025), and ONS balanced UK regional GVA data by industry (current price estimates) (2019-2023).

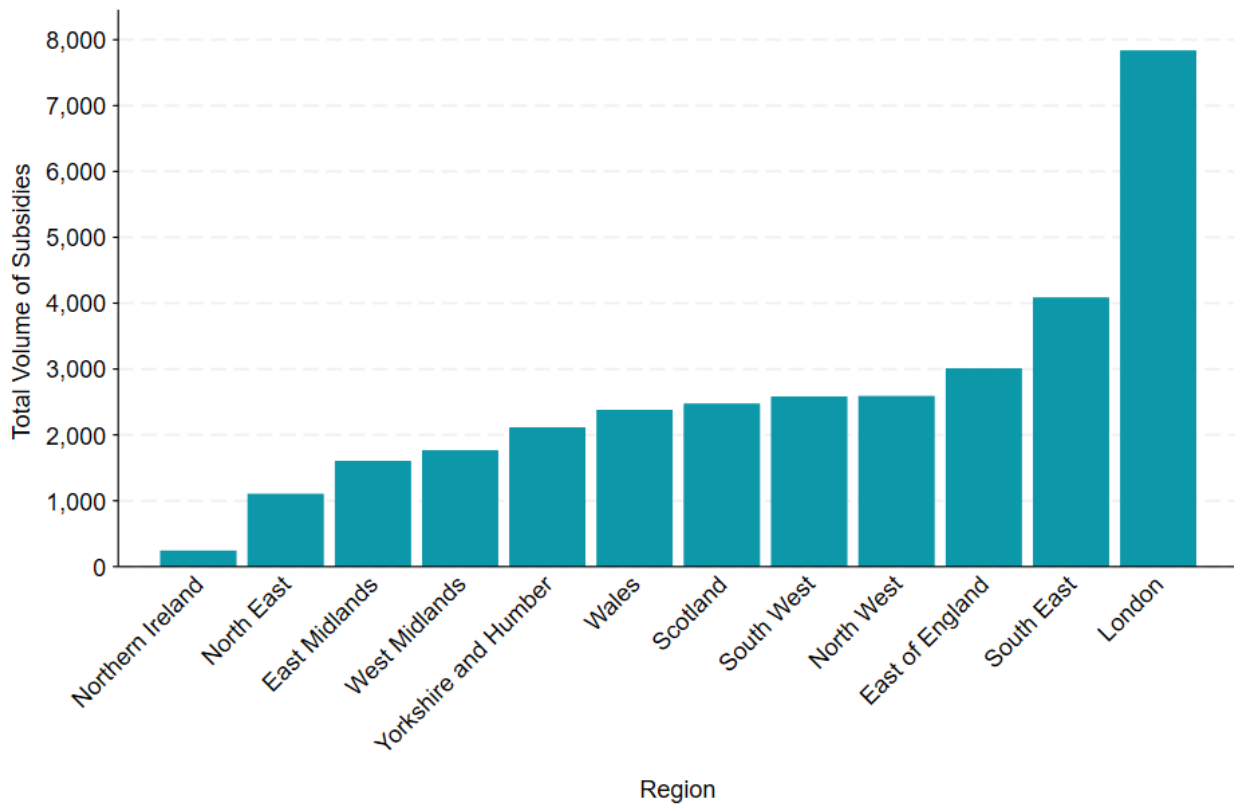
Notes: See Table G.1 for the Section names associated the SIC-1 codes included on the figure. Relative subsidy value represents the total subsidy value awarded to each sector during the regime as a percentage of that sector's five-year (2019-2023) average GVA. Subsidy awards with multiple spending sectors listed in the database have been excluded (44 observations). Sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply') is excluded as it is an outlier with a relative subsidy value significantly exceeding other sectors. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Regional Distribution of Subsidies

- G.46 Subsidies were awarded throughout the UK during the regime, and the volume and value of subsidies awarded varied by region.
- G.47 Figure G.14 shows the total volume of subsidies awarded to each region in the UK throughout the period based on data from the database. This shows that:
- (a) London received the largest number of subsidy awards during the regime (almost 8,000 subsidies, approximately 25% of total volume).

- (b) The second greatest volume of subsidies went to the South East (13%), although this region received significantly fewer subsidies than London (around half the number).
- (c) Northern Ireland received the smallest volume of subsidies during the regime (243 subsidies, less than 1% of total volume).

Figure G.14: Total Volume of Subsidies by Region



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards registered at the UK-wide level, to multiple regions, and to the Channel Islands or Isle of Man have been excluded (2,169 observations). It has been assumed that the region entered in the database represents the region of the economic activity to which the subsidy or scheme relates however we note that this may not always be the case. Further limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

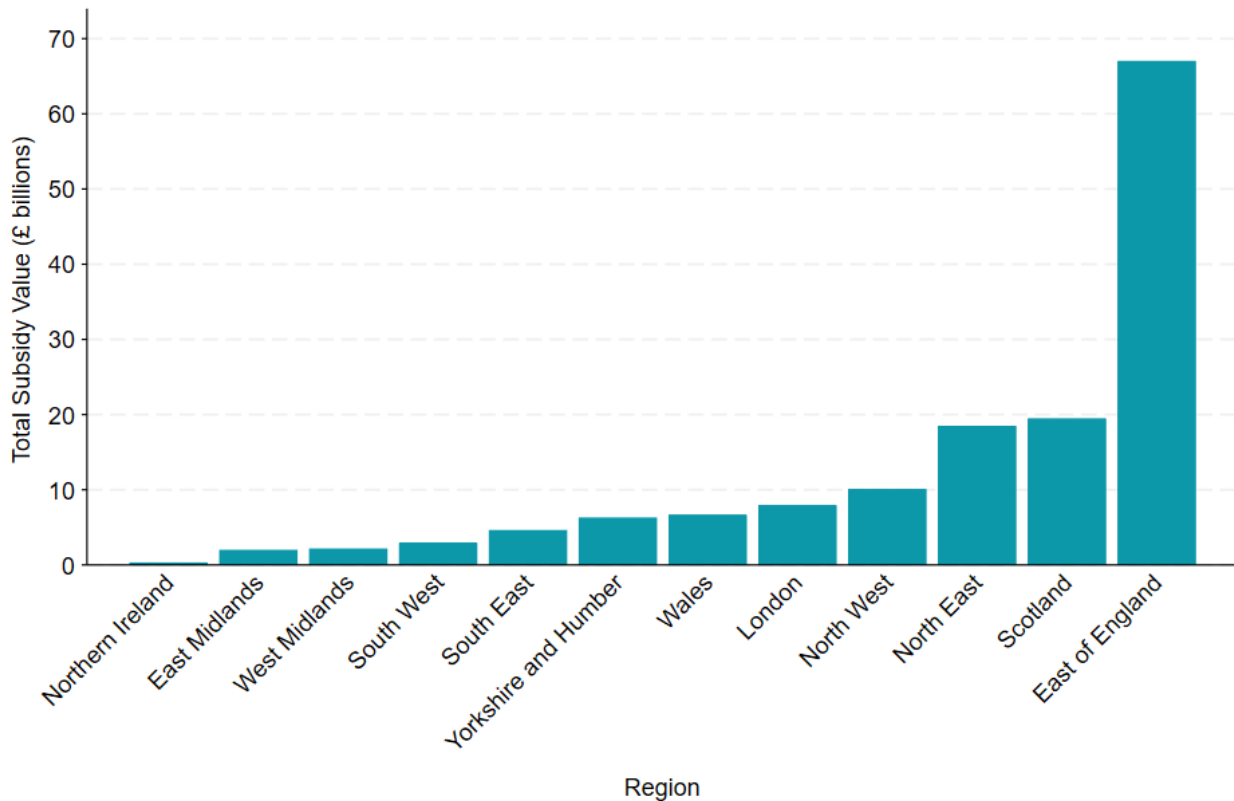
G.48 Figure G.15 shows the total value of subsidies awarded to each region in the UK under the regime based on data from the database. This shows that:

- (a) East of England received the largest value of subsidies (£67 billion, 45% of total subsidy value).⁵⁶
- (b) Scotland received the second largest subsidy value (£19.5 billion, 13% of total subsidy value).

⁵⁶ We note that this was mostly driven by subsidies in sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply').

- (c) Northern Ireland received the smallest subsidy value (around £330 million, less than 1% of total subsidy value).

Figure G.15: Total Value of Subsidies by Region



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards registered at the UK-wide level, to multiple regions, and to the Channel Islands or Isle of Man have been excluded (2,169 observations). It has been assumed that the region entered in the database represents the region of the economic activity to which the subsidy or scheme relates however we note that this may not always be the case. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Further limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

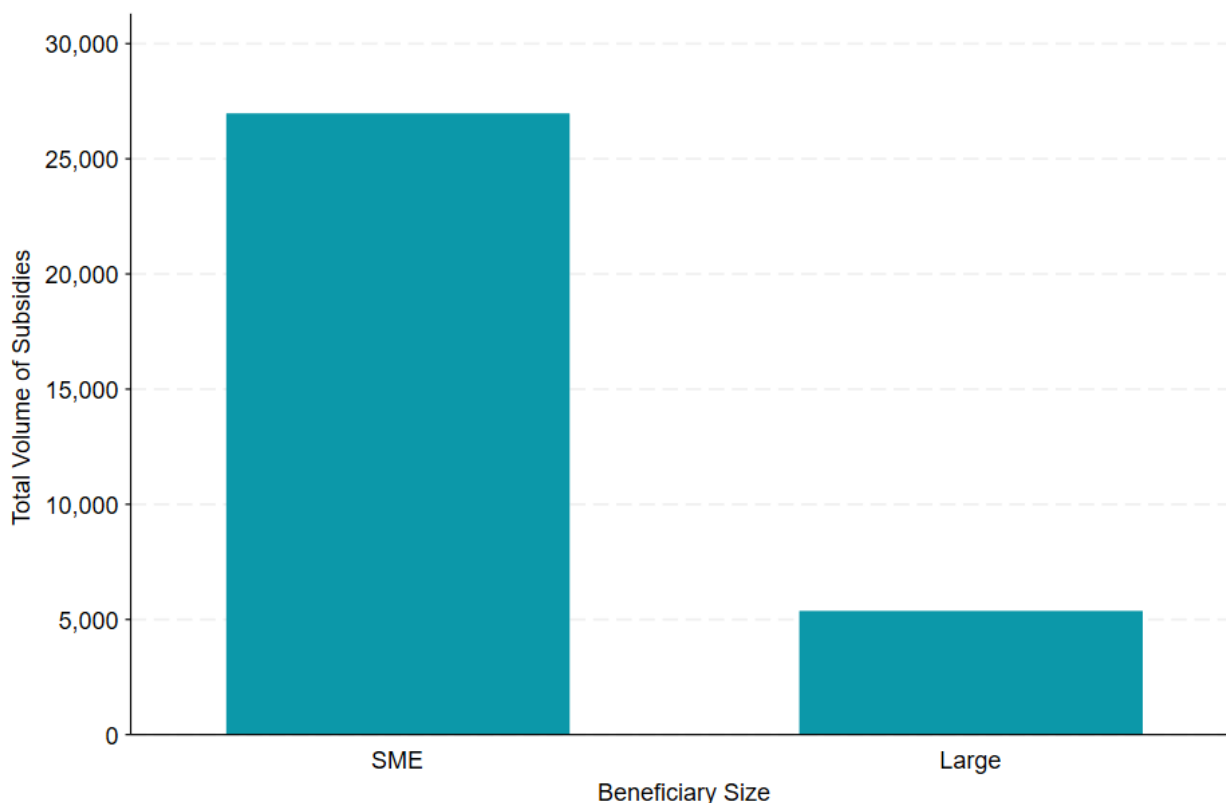
Distribution of Subsidies by Beneficiary

G.49 During the regime subsidies have been awarded to a variety of beneficiaries, and the volume of subsidies received varied significantly between individual beneficiaries. In particular, based on data from the database:

- (a) approximately 73% of beneficiaries received only one subsidy;
- (b) around 26% of beneficiaries received more than one but less than 10 subsidies; and
- (c) less than 1% of beneficiaries received 10 or more subsidies.

G.50 Beneficiaries ranged in size, and these have been categorised as either ‘SME’ or ‘Large’ for the purposes of this analysis.⁵⁷ Figure G.16 below shows the total volume of subsidies received by beneficiaries categorised as SMEs or Large businesses during the regime, based on data from the database. This shows that SMEs received the majority of subsidy volume (almost 27,000 subsidies, 79% of total volume), significantly more than large businesses (which received around 5,300 subsidies, or 16% of volume).⁵⁸

Figure G.16: Total Volume of Subsidies by Beneficiary Size



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards to beneficiaries whose size was listed as ‘Not specified’ in the database have been excluded from the figure (1,631 observations). Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

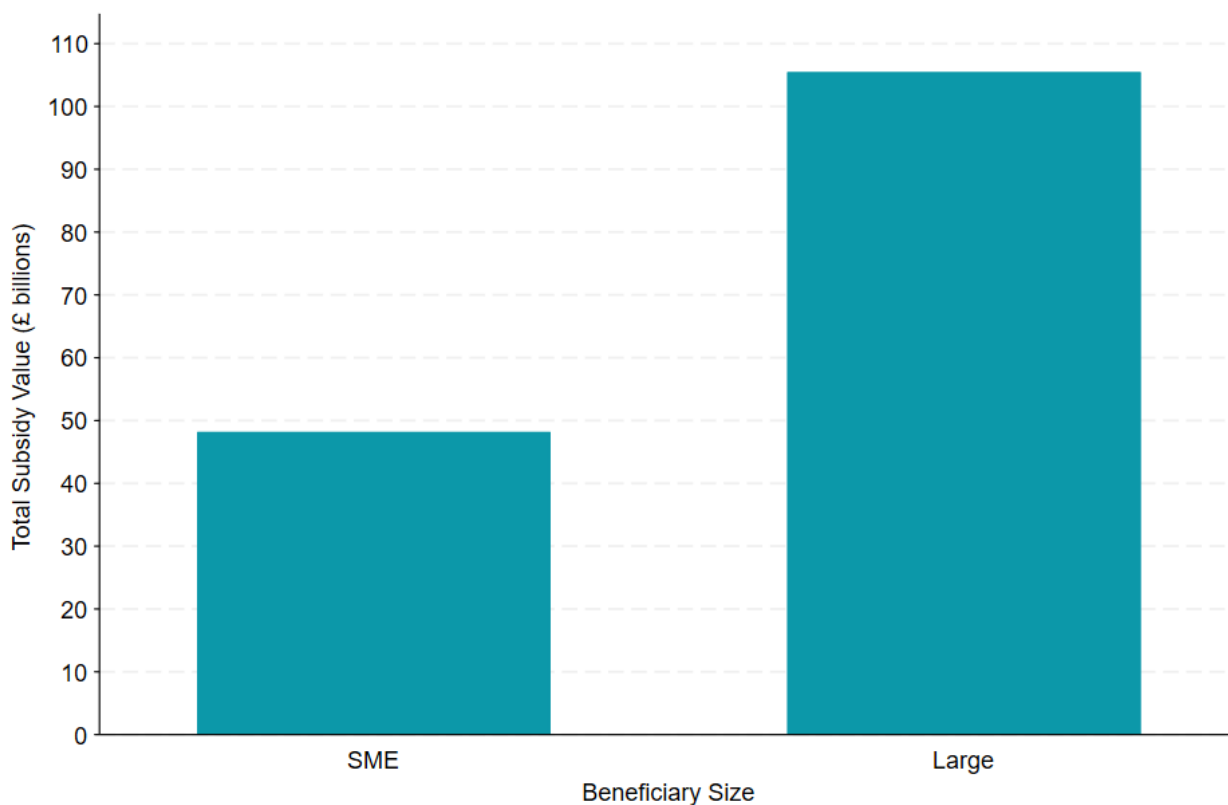
G.51 Figure G.17 shows the total value of subsidies awarded throughout the period by beneficiary size, based on data from the database. This shows that, in contrast to volume, large businesses received the majority of subsidy value (£105 billion, or 67% of total subsidy value) and SMEs received less than half of this (£48 billion, accounting for 31% of total subsidy value).⁵⁹ This indicates that subsidies to large businesses have a far greater average value than those awarded to SMEs.

⁵⁷ The Act does not define these categories. However, it is common to define SMEs as businesses with fewer than 250 employees, a turnover of £44 million or less, or that have a balance sheet total of £38 million or less (as set out in Clause 123 of the [Procurement Act 2023](#)).

⁵⁸ A small share of subsidy volume went to beneficiaries for which size was ‘Not specified’ (5%).

⁵⁹ A small share of subsidy value went to beneficiaries for which size was ‘Not specified’ (2%).

Figure G.17: Total Value of Subsidies by Beneficiary Size



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards to beneficiaries whose size was listed as 'Not specified' in the database have been excluded from the figure (1,631 observations). Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Distribution of Subsidies by Public Authority Type

G.52 Many different public authorities have awarded subsidies during the regime. There were 248 uniquely-named public authorities included in the database throughout the period. The database shows that overall HMRC awarded the greatest number of subsidies (13,820 - representing 41% of total subsidy volume) and DESNZ awarded subsidies with the highest total value (£127.8 billion, representing 82% of total subsidy value). DESNZ most frequently used 'other instruments' (by value), accounting for approximately 44% of its subsidies by value,⁶⁰ followed by contracts for difference (26% of its subsidies by value).

⁶⁰ 'Other instruments' is a category capturing awards in the database that do not fall into one of the following: direct grant, loan, equity, tax or rate relief, provision of goods and services, purchase or goods and services, direct grant with other instruments, and contracts for difference.

G.53 Based on public authority names in the database that could be harmonised with the ONS PSCG to determine their institutional type,⁶¹ subsidies were awarded by:

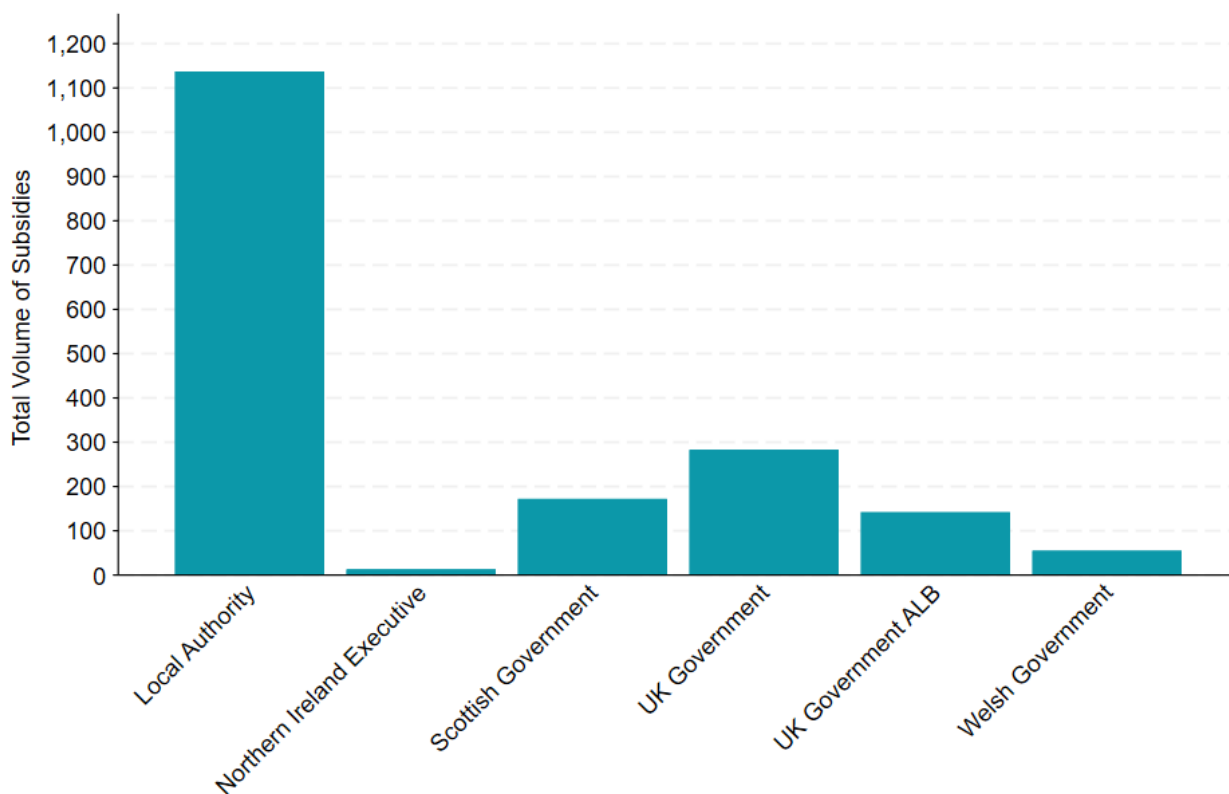
- (a) 171 local authorities;
- (b) 28 UK government departments;
- (c) 22 ALBs; and
- (d) 16 devolved government departments.

G.54 We have assessed the distribution of subsidies by different types of public authority separately for standalone subsidies and subsidies under schemes. Figure G.18 shows the total volume of standalone subsidies awarded throughout the period by institutional type. This shows that, based on the 237 public authorities matched across the database and the ONS PSCG:

- (a) local authorities awarded the largest number of standalone subsidies (1,137, accounting for 63% of total standalone subsidy volume awarded by matched public authorities);
- (b) UK government departments awarded the second greatest volume of standalone subsidies, although this was substantially fewer than local authorities (283, representing around 16%); and
- (c) the Northern Ireland Executive awarded the fewest standalone subsidies (13, representing less than 1%).

⁶¹ We were unable to match 11 public authorities, which accounted for 40 observations.

Figure G.18: Total Volume of Standalone Subsidies by Public Authority Type



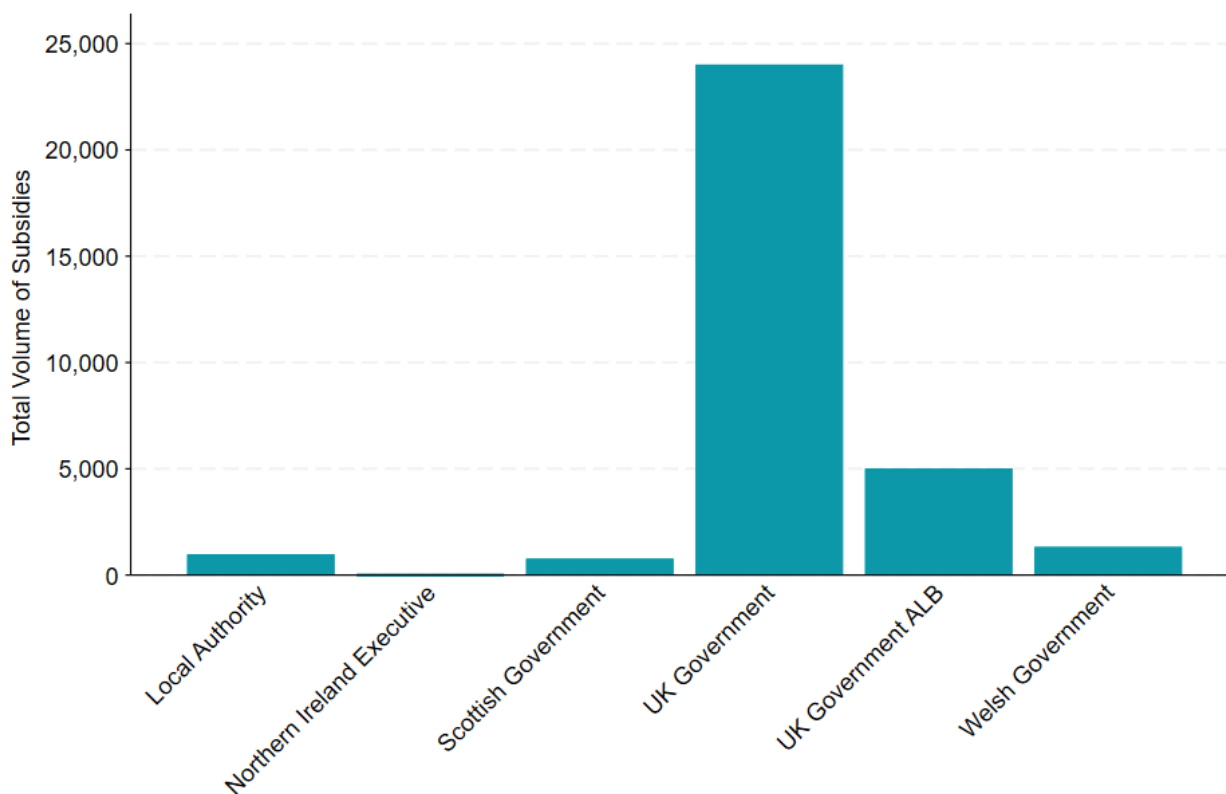
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025) and the ONS PSCG (March 2026).

Notes: Subsidy awards granted under schemes have been excluded. Observations in the database for which the public authority name could not be harmonised with the ONS PSCG (March 2026) have been excluded (27 observations for standalone awards). Further limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.55 Figure G.19 below shows the equivalent for subsidies under schemes. This shows that, based on the database and the ONS PSCG:

- (a) UK government departments granted the majority of subsidy awards under schemes (24,014, accounting for 75% of total subsidy volume awarded under schemes by matched public authorities);
- (b) the second largest volume of subsidies under schemes was awarded by UK government ALBs (5,014, representing around 16%); and
- (c) the Northern Ireland Executive awarded the fewest number of subsidies under schemes (5, less than 1%).

Figure G.19: Total Volume of Subsidies under Schemes by Public Authority Type



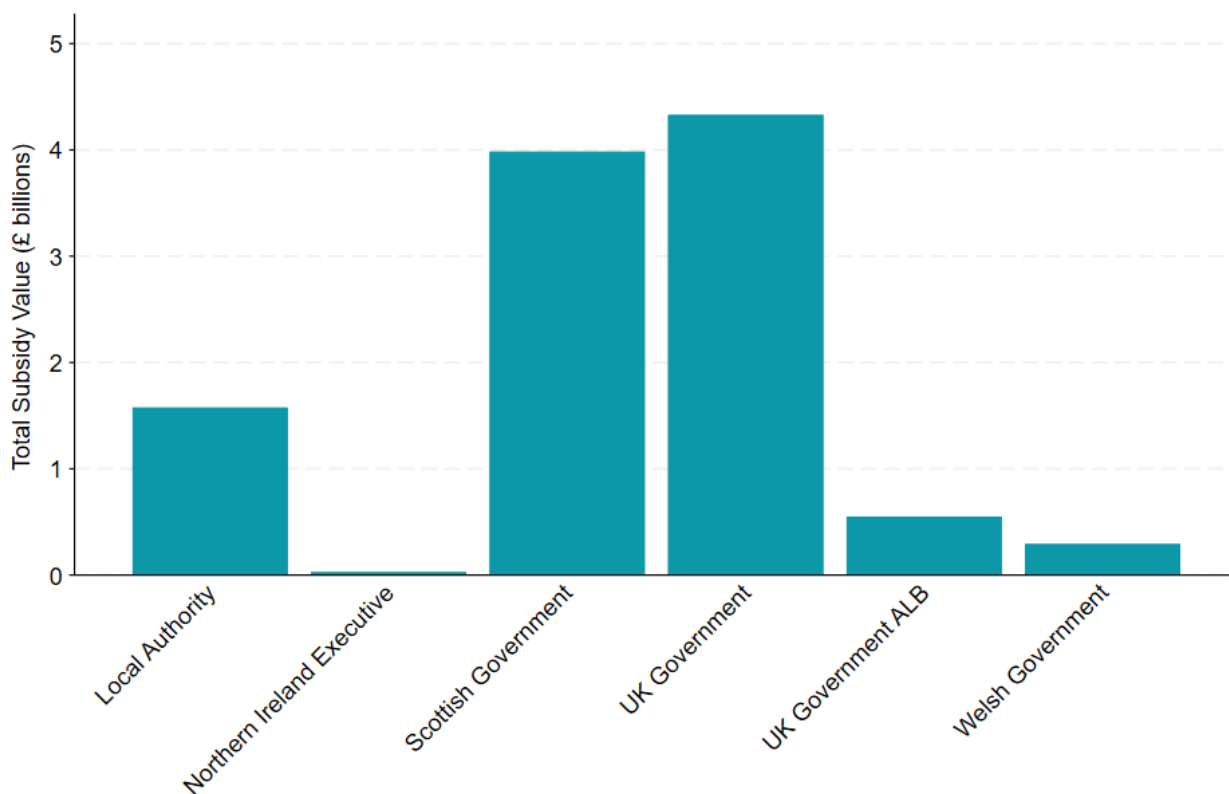
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025) and the ONS PSCG (March 2026).

Notes: Standalone subsidy awards have been excluded. Observations in the database for which the public authority name could not be harmonised with the ONS PSCG (March 2026) have been excluded (13 observations for subsidies under schemes). Further limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.56 Figure G.20 shows the total value of standalone subsidies awarded during the regime by institutional type, based on the 237 public authorities matched across the database and the ONS PSCG. This shows that:

- (a) UK government departments granted the greatest value through standalone awards (£4.3 billion, accounting for 40% of the total value of standalone subsidies awarded by matched public authorities);
- (b) the Scottish Government and its departments awarded the second largest value through standalone awards (approximately £4 billion, representing 37%); and
- (c) the Northern Ireland Executive awarded the fewest standalone subsidies by value (£0.03 billion, less than 1%).

Figure G.20: Total Value of Standalone Subsidies by Public Authority Type



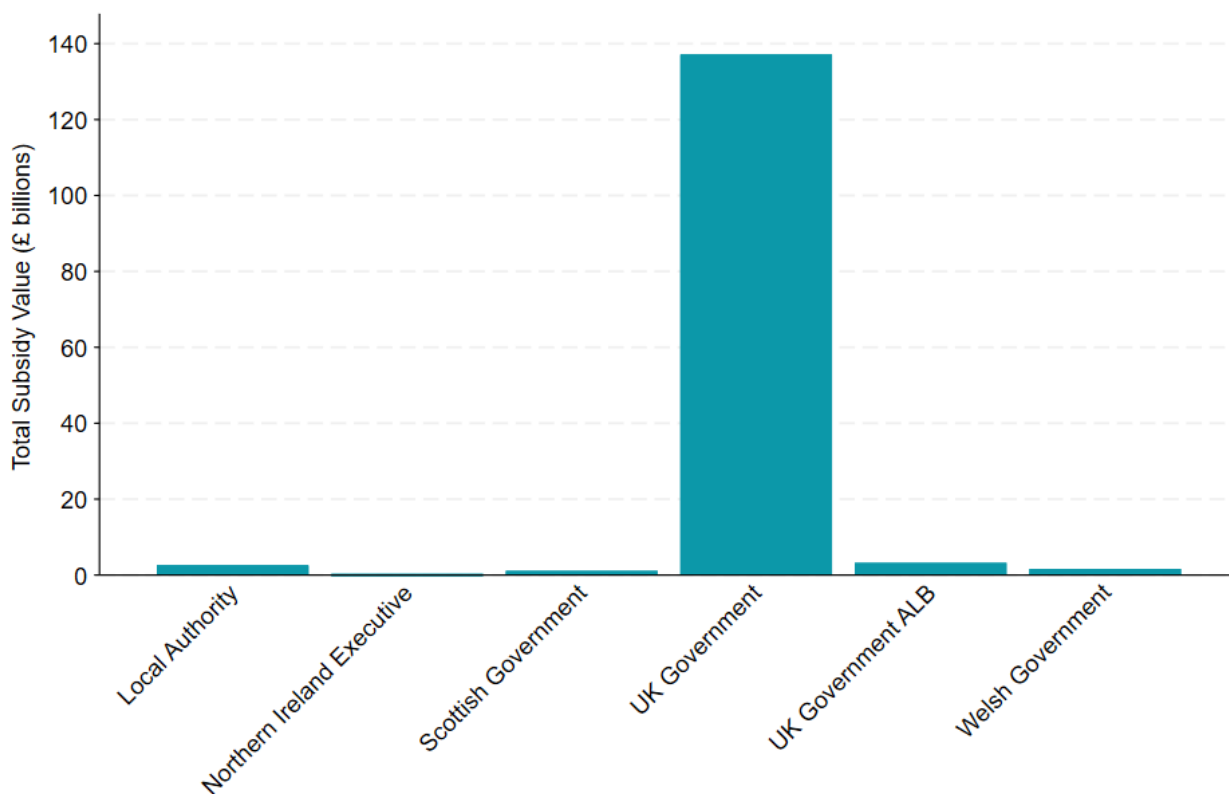
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025) and the ONS PSCG (March 2026).

Notes: Subsidy awards granted under schemes have been excluded. Observations in the database for which the public authority name could not be harmonised with the ONS PSCG (March 2026) have been excluded (27 observations for standalone awards). Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Further limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.57 Figure G.21 shows the equivalent for subsidies under schemes. This shows that, based on the database and the ONS PSCG:

- (a) UK government departments granted the vast majority of value from subsidy awards under schemes (£137 billion, accounting for 94% of the total value of subsidies under schemes awarded by matched public authorities);
- (b) UK government ALBs awarded the second greatest value through subsidy awards under schemes, although this was substantially less than UK government (approximately £3 billion, around 2%); and
- (c) the Northern Ireland Executive awarded the fewest subsidies under schemes by value (£0.04 billion, less than 1%).

Figure G.21: Total Value of Subsidies under Schemes by Public Authority Type



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025) and the ONS PSCG (March 2026).

Notes: Standalone subsidy awards have been excluded. Observations in the database for which the public authority name could not be harmonised with the ONS PSCG (March 2026) have been excluded (13 observations for subsidies under schemes). Where subsidy values were reported as ranges the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Further limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

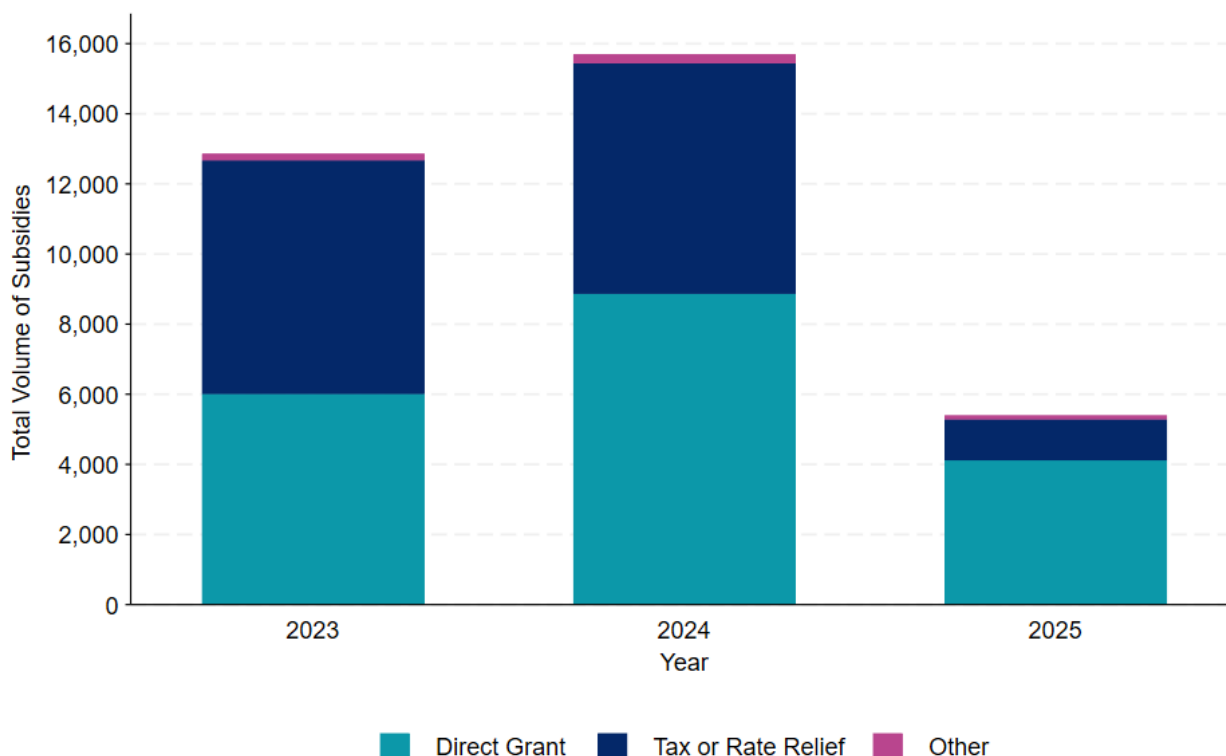
Distribution of Subsidies by Instrument Type

G.58 During the regime subsidies have been granted through several different types of instruments. Figure G.22 shows the annual volume of subsidies awarded by instrument type based on data from the database. The results are set out in more detail in Table G.2 below. This shows that:

- (a) the most used instruments each year were direct grants, and tax or rate relief measures; and
- (b) all other instruments were used infrequently, accounting for a maximum of 2% of total subsidy volume in any year of the period.⁶²

⁶² Here 'all other instruments' refers to the consolidated category of all instruments that are not direct grants or tax or rate relief (ie it includes loans, equity, provision of goods and services, purchase of goods and services, direct grant with other instruments, contracts for difference, and other instruments).

Figure G.22: Annual Volume of Subsidies by Instrument



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Instruments used to grant less than 1000 subsidies in any year have been consolidated into the 'Other' category (including loans, equity, provision of goods and services, purchase of goods and services, direct grants with other instruments, contracts for difference, and other instruments). As subsidies in the form of tax measures have a longer period before they must be uploaded to the database, it may be the case that some tax or rate relief subsidies for 2025 are not yet present in the data. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Table G.2: Annual Volume of Subsidies by Instrument

Subsidy Instrument	Annual Volume		
	2023	2024	2025
Contracts for Difference	92	128	0
Direct Grant	6014	8868	4116
Direct Grant with Other Instruments	0	4	3
Equity	4	5	9
Loan	60	88	45
Provision of Goods and Services	4	10	15
Purchase of Goods and Services	5	2	2
Tax or Rate Relief	6660	6569	1170
Other Instruments	21	20	36

Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: As subsidies in the form of tax measures have a longer period before they must be uploaded to the database, it may be the case that some tax or rate relief subsidies for 2025 are not yet present in the data. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.59 Figure G.23 below shows the annual value of subsidies awarded during the period by instrument type based on data from the database. The results are set out in more detail in Table G.3 below. This shows that:

- (a) direct grants were used to award the greatest amount of subsidy value in 2023 (£12.2 billion, 60% of total subsidy value in 2023);
- (b) Contracts for Difference were used to award the greatest subsidy value in 2024 (£27.8 billion, 56% of total subsidy value in 2024);⁶³
- (c) other instruments accounted for the largest amount of subsidy value in 2025 (£56.4 billion, 65% of total subsidy value in 2025); and
- (d) other instruments accounted for the largest share of subsidy value during the regime, awarding a total value of £57 billion (36% of total subsidy value).⁶⁴

Figure G.23: Annual Value of Subsidies by Instrument



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Instruments used to grant subsidy awards totalling less than £1 billion in any year have been consolidated into 'Other' (direct grant with other instruments, loans, provision of goods and services, purchase of goods and services, and other instruments). Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. As subsidies in the form of tax measures have a longer period before they must be uploaded to the database, it may be the case that some tax or rate relief subsidies for 2025 are not yet present in the data. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

⁶³ The vast majority of subsidy value from contracts for difference came from awards to sector D ('Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply').

⁶⁴ In paragraph G.59(c) and (d), 'other instruments' represents the category containing instruments that do not fall into one of the following: direct grant, loan, equity, tax or rate relief, provision of goods or services, purchase of goods or services, direct grant with other instruments, and contracts for difference.

Table G.3: Annual Value of Subsidies by Instrument

Subsidy Instrument	£ billion		
	Annual Value		
	2023	2024	2025
Contracts for Difference	4.85	27.81	0.00
Direct Grant	12.17	15.79	25.35
Direct Grant with Other Instruments	0.00	0.01	0.05
Equity	0.51	2.51	2.79
Loan	0.15	0.09	0.07
Provision of Goods and Services	0.02	0.05	0.02
Tax or Rate Relief	2.71	3.00	1.61
Other Instruments	0.02	0.57	56.41

Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: The 'Purchase of goods and services' category is consolidated into 'Other Instruments' in Table G.3 as it accounted for less than £3 million annually. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. As subsidies in the form of tax measures have a longer period before they must be uploaded to the database, it may be the case that some tax or rate relief subsidies for 2025 are not yet present in the data. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Distribution of Subsidies by Streamlined Routes

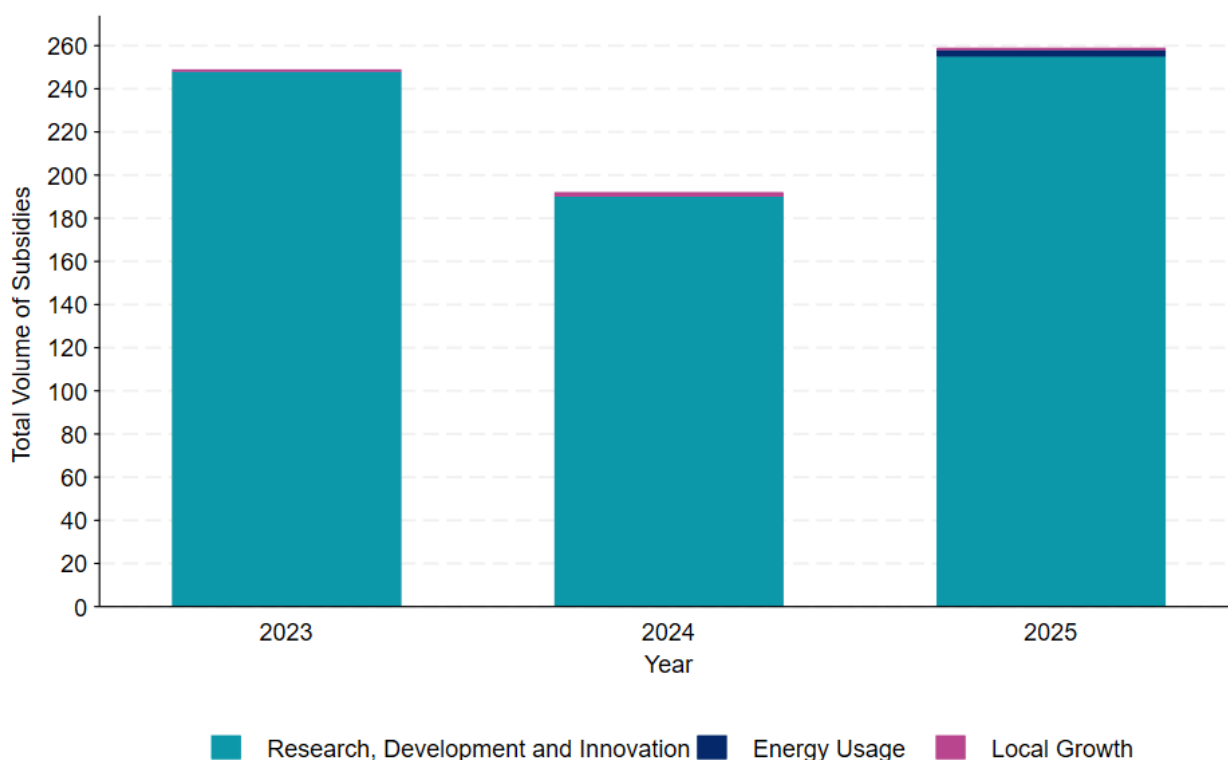
G.60 Streamlined routes (defined in the Act as Streamlined Subsidy Schemes) are pre-assessed schemes established by the UK government for use by all public authorities across the UK. These can be used to give certain subsidies aligned to UK strategic priorities. During the period 4 January 2023 to 31 December 2025 there were three Streamlined Routes.⁶⁵

G.61 Figure G.24 below shows the annual volume of subsidies awarded under streamlined routes during the period based on data from the database. The results are set out in more detail in Table G.4 below. This shows that:

- (a) Subsidies awarded through streamlined routes accounted for a small share of the total volume of subsidies throughout the period (approximately 2%). The largest volume of subsidies under streamlined routes were awarded in 2025 (259), representing 5% of total subsidy volume that year.
- (b) The Research, Development and Innovation streamlined route was the most frequently used by volume throughout the period (around 99% of the total volume of subsidies awarded through streamlined routes), and in each year of the period (at least 98% of subsidy volume under streamlined routes each year).

⁶⁵ During the reporting period for this review (January 2023 to March 2026), there were five streamlined routes: Research, Development and Innovation; Energy Usage; Local Growth; Community Regeneration; and Arts and Culture. Only the first three of these were in effect during the period covered by the data analysis (January 2023 to the end of December 2025). The latter two (Community Regeneration and Arts and Culture) came into effect on 12 January 2026. A further streamlined route covering subsidies for housing developments was announced in April 2026. See [Subsidy Control Act 2022: Streamlined Routes](#) for more detail.

Figure G.24: Annual Volume of Subsidies by Streamlined Route



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards granted under the Community Regeneration, Arts and Culture, and Housing streamlined routes are not included as they came into effect after 2025. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Table G.4: Annual Volume of Subsidies by Streamlined Route

Streamlined Route	Annual Volume		
	2023	2024	2025
Research, Development and Innovation	248	190	255
Local Growth	1	2	1
Energy Usage	0	0	3
Total	249	192	259

Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

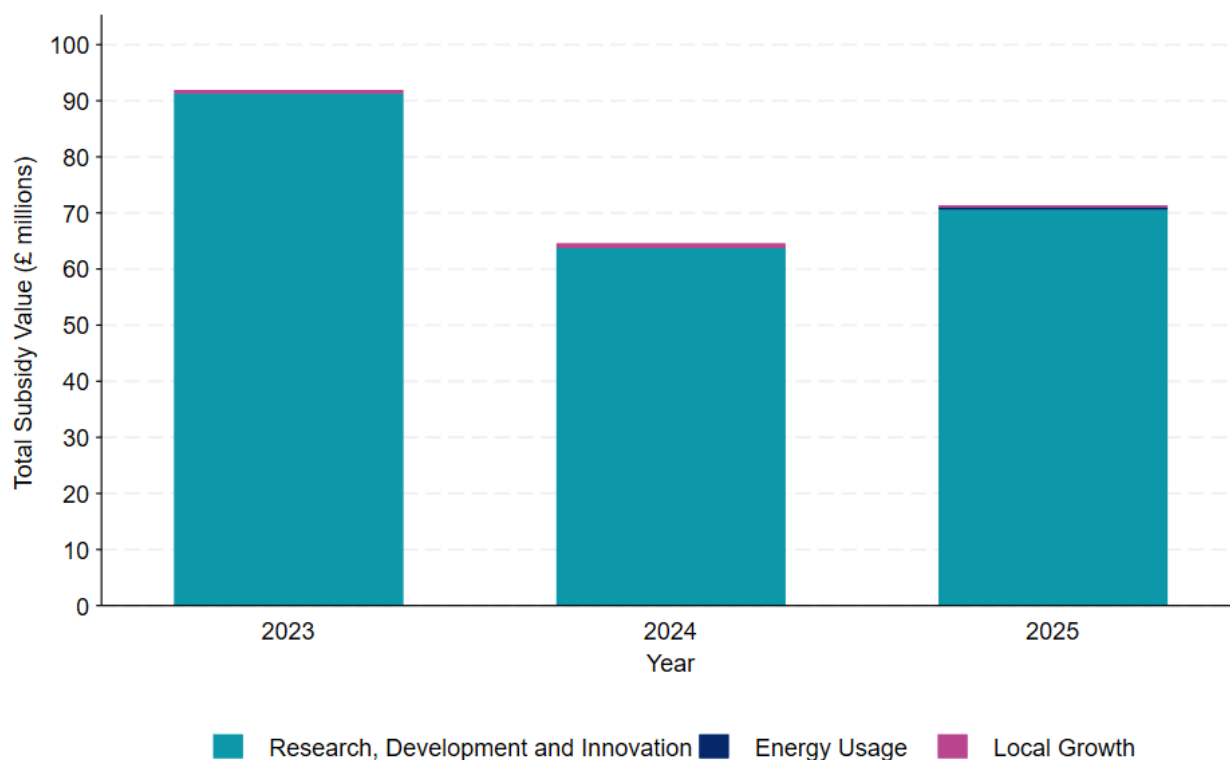
Notes: Subsidy awards granted under the Community Regeneration, Arts and Culture, and Housing streamlined routes are not included as they came into effect after 2025. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.62 Figure G.25 shows the annual value of subsidies awarded under streamlined routes throughout the period based on data from the database. The results are set out in more detail in Table G.5 below. This shows that:

- (a) Subsidies awarded through streamlined routes accounted for a small share of the total value of subsidies (less than 1%). The greatest annual value of subsidies under streamlined routes was awarded in 2023 (£92 million), representing less than 1% of the total subsidy value that year.
- (b) The Research, Development and Innovation streamlined route was used to award the largest subsidy value throughout the regime and in each year

(accounting for around 99% of subsidy value awarded through streamlined routes each year and throughout the period).

Figure G.25: Annual Value of Subsidies by Streamlined Route



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards granted under the Community Regeneration, Arts and Culture, and Housing streamlined routes are not included as they came into effect after 2025. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Table G.5: Annual Value of Subsidies by Streamlined Route

Streamlined Route	£ million		
	2023	2024	2025
Research, Development and Innovation	91.3	63.8	70.6
Local Growth	0.6	0.8	0.1
Energy Usage	0.0	0.0	0.5
Total	91.9	64.6	71.2

Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Notes: Subsidy awards granted under the Community Regeneration, Arts and Culture, and Housing streamlined routes are not included as they came into effect after 2025. Where subsidy values were reported as ranges, the middle of the range has been used. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Subsidies or Subsidy Schemes of Particular Interest

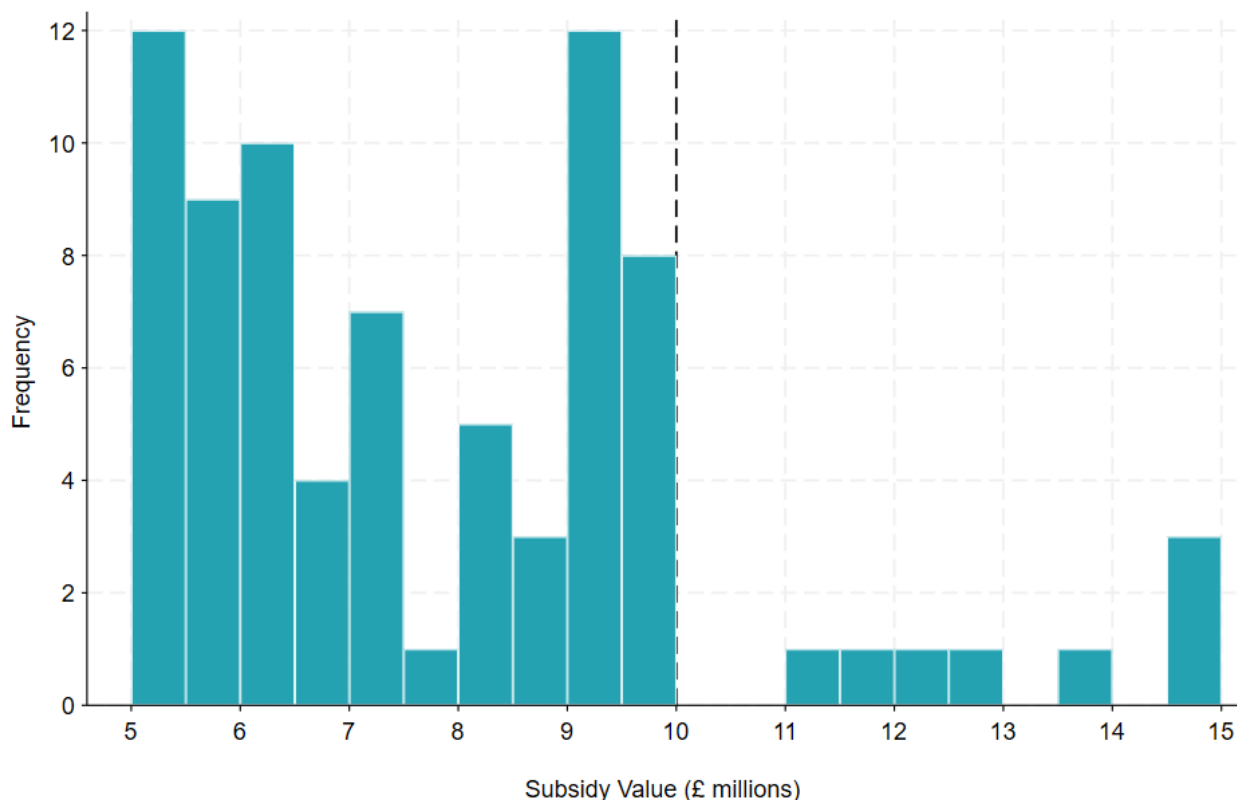
G.63 Subsidies or Subsidy Schemes of Particular Interest (SSoPIs) are subsidies (or subsidy schemes) that are required to be referred to the SAU for evaluation of

their Assessment of compliance with the Act. The monetary threshold at which a subsidy is categorised as a SSoPI is set out in the Statutory Guidance.⁶⁶

- G.64 Our analysis of the SSoPI threshold considers those recorded on the database with award dates between 2023 and the end of July 2025, during which the threshold was set at £10 million. Figure G.26 below presents the distribution of standalone subsidies within £5 million of the threshold during this period (ie those with a value between £5 and £15 million) based on data from the database.
- G.65 Figure G.26 can help assess if the threshold has resulted in any bunching of subsidy value to avoid referral to the SAU, in which case we would expect to see (i) an unexpectedly high frequency of subsidies being awarded just below the threshold (eg between £9.5 and £10 million) and (ii) an unexpectedly low number of subsidies being awarded after the threshold (above £10 million). This is because the threshold could create an incentive to reduce the value of awards, but only to just avoid meeting the threshold.
- G.66 Overall, Figure G.26 shows that, based on data from the database, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that there has been a substantial distortion to public authorities' decisions on subsidy value due to the SSoPI threshold. In particular:
- (a) There is limited evidence of a higher frequency of subsidies with a value just below the threshold. 20 subsidies were recorded with a value between £9 and £10 million (inclusive), though only eight of these were in the range between £9.5 and £10 million (in which range we might expect to observe any subsidies specifically designed to avoid the threshold). This is comparable with the wider distribution of subsidies below the threshold. For example, 23 subsidies were recorded with a value in the range of £5 to £6 million (inclusive), and 11 subsidies had a value in the £7 to £8 million range (inclusive).
 - (b) There is no evidence of an unexpectedly low frequency of subsidies with a value just above the SSoPI threshold, given the much lower frequency of subsidies in the region above the threshold in general. While no subsidies were recorded with a value immediately above the threshold (above £10 million but no more than £11 million), eight subsidies had a value between £11 and £15 million (which is broadly consistent with the frequency of subsidies in the £15 to £20 million range).

⁶⁶ [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 10.5.

Figure G.26: Distribution of Standalone Subsidies Within £5 Million of the SSoPI Threshold (£10 Million)



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-end of July 2025).

Notes: Subsidies awarded under schemes (both legacy and post-Act) are not included. Standalone subsidies with a value below £5 million or greater than £15 million are not included. Subsidies awarded from August 2025 have been excluded as a different threshold value applied. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Bars represent subsidy value ranges of £500,000. Histogram bars are defined as left-inclusive and right-exclusive, meaning the value range includes the lower bound but not the upper bound, except for (i) the range for which the threshold is the upper bound (£9.5 million to £10 million) and the final bar (£14.5 million to £15 million) which are inclusive of both bounds, and (ii) the range for which the threshold is the lower bound (£10 million to £10.5 million) which does not include either bound. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

Minimum Financial Assistance and Subsidies of Public Economic Interest Assistance

G.67 MFA and SPEI Assistance are two categories under the Act that refer to low-value subsidies which do not need to comply with the majority of subsidy control requirements. These have the following monetary thresholds, which cumulate across the two categories:

- (a) For MFA, no single beneficiary can receive more than £315,000 through MFA and SPEI Assistance awards granted within three financial years;⁶⁷ and

⁶⁷ [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 7.2.

(b) For SPEI Assistance, no single beneficiary can receive more than £725,000 through MFA and SPEI Assistance awards granted within three financial years.⁶⁸

G.68 According to the database 2,140 MFA and SPEI Assistance awards were granted to 1,734 beneficiaries between 4 January 2023 and 31 December 2025, amounting to approximately £301 million. Separately, there were 2,078 MFA and 62 SPEI Assistance awards, with a total value of approximately £290 million and £11 million respectively.

G.69 MFA and SPEI Assistance were awarded by a variety of public authorities. Based on data from the database that could be harmonised with the ONS PSCG to determine public authorities' institutional types,⁶⁹ local authorities awarded 61% of MFA and SPEI Assistance subsidies (or 61% of MFA and 58% of SPEI Assistance awards).

G.70 Figure G.27 below shows the distribution of the (cumulative) value received by beneficiaries through MFA and/or SPEI Assistance subsidies based on data from the database, with the respective threshold values displayed on the graph. This shows that the majority of beneficiaries received significantly less than both threshold values. In particular:

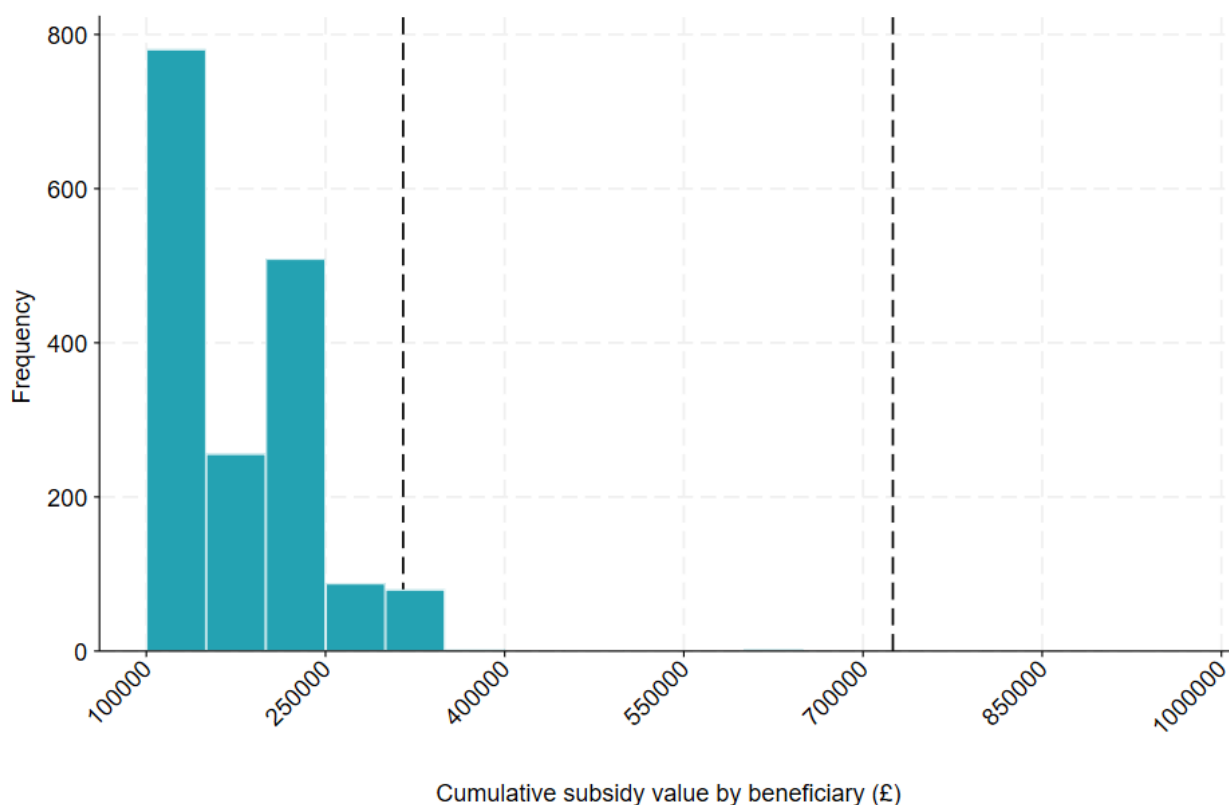
(a) Half of the 1,734 MFA and/or SPEI Assistance beneficiaries received £159,796 or less (the median cumulative value) and only 5% received at least £300,000 (the 95th percentile); and

(b) Fifteen beneficiaries received a (cumulative) value above the MFA threshold that did not exceed the SPEI Assistance threshold (ie greater than £315,000 but no more than £725,000).

⁶⁸ [Statutory Guidance](#), paragraph 7.22.

⁶⁹ Five public authorities could not be matched, accounting for 54 observations.

Figure G.27: Distribution of MFA and SPEI Assistance



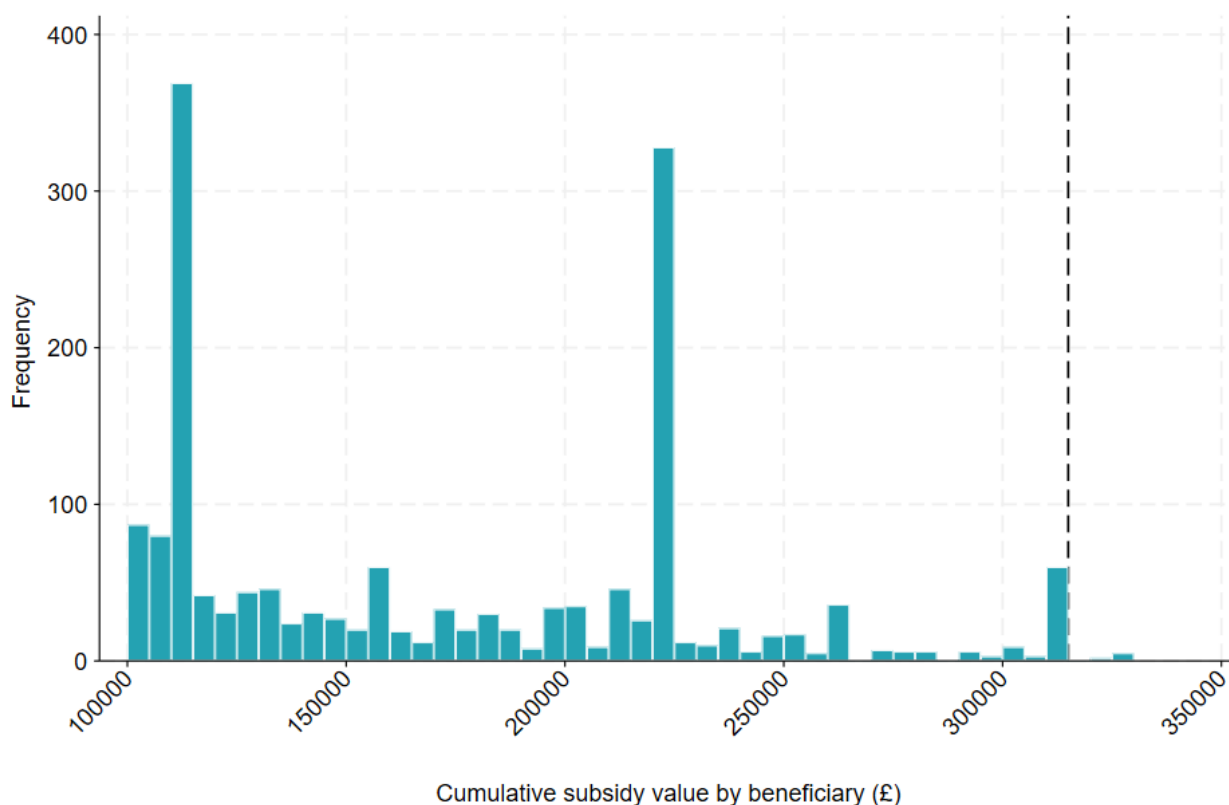
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Awards have been cumulated across any identical beneficiary names within the cumulation period (as defined in the Guidance). One beneficiary received awards in two different cumulation periods and therefore these enter the analysis separately for the two periods. Only MFA and SPEI Assistance subsidies awarded post-Act with a cumulative value of £100,000 or more have been included on the figure as individual awards with a value below this are not required to be uploaded to the database. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Bars represent subsidy value ranges of £50,000. Histogram bars represent left-inclusive and right-exclusive ranges, meaning the value range includes the lower bound but not the upper bound, except for the final range (£950 thousand to £1 million) which is inclusive of all values. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.71 Figure G.28 below shows the distribution more closely around the MFA threshold. This shows that the number of beneficiaries recorded in the database as receiving MFA tends to fall as the (cumulative) value increases towards the £315,000 threshold. There is a small uptick of 60 beneficiaries receiving between £310,000 and £315,000 (inclusive), and a couple of spikes in the wider distribution (eg 370 beneficiaries receiving between £110,000 and £115,000 inclusive, and 344 beneficiaries receiving between £215,000 and £220,000 inclusive.)⁷⁰

⁷⁰ We note that (i) the subsidy database included one individual MFA subsidy award which exceeded the MFA threshold, and (ii) after applying cumulation rules, this analysis found a small number of beneficiaries to have received a cumulative value exceeding the MFA threshold. This may be the result of human data entry error, limitations related to accurately identifying all observations that should be attributed to one beneficiary, and the presence of SPEI Assistance subsidies in this analysis (which can exceed the MFA threshold) because MFA and SPEI Assistance cumulate together for the purposes of the thresholds.

Figure G.28: Distribution of MFA



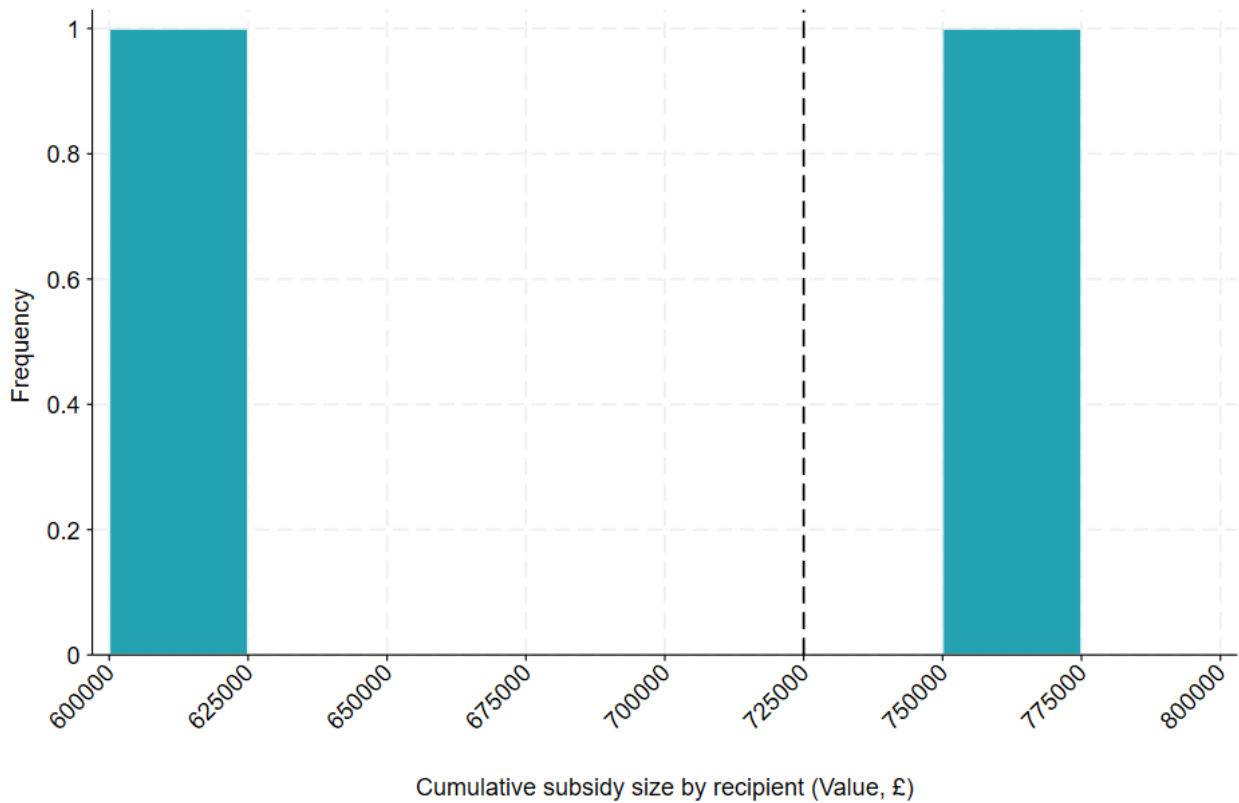
Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Awards have been cumulated across any identical beneficiary names within the cumulation period (as defined in the Guidance). One beneficiary received awards in two different cumulation periods and therefore these enter the analysis separately for the two periods. Only post-Act MFA and SPEI Assistance subsidies with a cumulative value in the range of £100,000 to £350,000 have been included on the figure as individual awards with a value below this are not required to be uploaded to the database. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Bars represent subsidy value ranges of £5,000. Histogram bars represent left-inclusive and right-exclusive ranges, meaning the value range includes the lower bound but not the upper bound, except for (i) the range for which the threshold is the upper bound (£310,000 to £315,000) and the final range (£345,000 to £350,000) which are inclusive of both bounds, and (ii) the range for which the threshold is the lower bound (£315,000 to £320,000) which is inclusive of neither bound. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.72 Figure G.29 below shows the distribution more closely around the SPEI Assistance threshold. This shows that the beneficiary that received the closest (cumulative) value to the threshold received an overall value between £600,000 and £625,000 (inclusive).⁷¹

⁷¹ We note that (i) the subsidy database included two individual SPEI Assistance subsidy awards which exceeded the SPEI Assistance threshold, and (ii) after applying cumulation rules, a very small number of beneficiaries were found to have received a cumulative value exceeding the SPEI Assistance threshold. This may be the result of human data entry error, and limitations related to accurately identifying all observations that should be attributed to one beneficiary.

Figure G.29: Distribution of SPEI Assistance



Source: SAU analysis of data from the UK Subsidy Database (2023-2025).

Note: Awards have been cumulated across any identical beneficiary names within the cumulation period (as defined in the Guidance). Only post-Act MFA and SPEI Assistance subsidies that cumulatively have a value in the range of £600,000 to £800,000 have been included. Value has not been adjusted to account for inflation. Bars represent value ranges of £25,000. Histogram bars represent left-inclusive and right-exclusive ranges, meaning the value range includes the lower bound but not the upper bound, except for the final range (£775,000 to £800,000) which is inclusive of all values in the range. Limitations to the analysis are discussed in the Methodology section above.

G.73 Figure G.27, G.28 and G.29 can be used, along with the results of the wider analysis, to help assess if the thresholds have resulted in any bunching of subsidy value to avoid compliance with a number of requirements under the Act. If this was the case for either (or both) of the MFA and SPEI Assistance thresholds, we would expect to see (i) an unexpectedly high number of beneficiaries receiving a cumulative value just below the threshold(s), and (ii) an unexpectedly low number of MFA and/or SPEI Assistance beneficiaries above the threshold(s) and low numbers of ordinary subsidies being awarded above the thresholds. This is because the thresholds could create an incentive to reduce the value of awards, but only to just avoid meeting the threshold.

- G.74 Overall, Figures G.27, G.28 and the wider analysis show that, based on data from the database, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that public authorities are adjusting a significant proportion of their awards due to the MFA threshold value. In particular:
- (a) There is limited evidence of an unexpectedly high frequency of beneficiaries with a (cumulative) value just below the threshold (between £310,000 and £315,000 inclusive). As set out above, Figure G.27 shows that most beneficiaries did not receive close to this amount, and although Figure G.28 does show a small uptick of 60 beneficiaries just below the threshold, this is not inconsistent with the wider distribution, and is a small proportion of overall MFA recipients.
 - (b) There is no evidence of an unexpectedly low frequency of beneficiaries with a (cumulative) value above the threshold. As set out above, Figure G.27 shows that 15 MFA and/or SPEI Assistance beneficiaries received a (cumulative) value greater than £315,000 but no more than £725,000. In addition, many individual subsidies were awarded with values above the MFA threshold. According to the database 1,892 standalone subsidies and subsidies under schemes were awarded in this range.⁷²
- G.75 Similarly, Figure G.27, G.29 and the wider analysis show that, based on data from database, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that public authorities are adjusting their awards due to the SPEI Assistance threshold value. In particular:
- (a) There is no evidence of an unexpectedly high frequency of beneficiaries with a (cumulative) value just below the threshold (eg above £715,000 but no more than £725,000). As shown by Figure G.27 and G.29, no SPEI Assistance beneficiary received a (cumulative) value within this range.
 - (b) A much larger number of individual subsidies were awarded above the SPEI Assistance threshold. According to the database there were 2,379 standalone subsidies and subsidies under schemes awarded above the threshold. Of these, 163 were SPEI subsidies (which did not classify as SPEI Assistance) among which 22 had a value of £1 million or less.⁷³
- G.76 Finally, it is important to note that the MFA and SPEI Assistance analyses may not reflect the true distribution of these awards because subsidies with a value below £100,000 are not required to be uploaded. These analyses may be particularly impacted by this limitation as they relate to low value subsidies, and £100,000 is

⁷² This excludes any subsidies awarded under legacy schemes, as these pre-dated the Act and therefore the MFA and SPEI Assistance classifications.

⁷³ This is based on standalone subsidies and subsidies awarded under schemes, excluding any subsidies awarded under legacy schemes as these pre-dated the Act and therefore the MFA, SPEI Assistance and SPEI classifications.

therefore relatively close to the relevant thresholds. As a result, conclusions may differ if all of these awards could be included.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ For example, beneficiaries shown to receive low cumulative values may sit closer to either threshold, or there may be a significant number of beneficiaries receiving very small amounts of MFA and SPEI Assistance.