

Phoebe Arnold
(by email)

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Date:

30th October 2012

Our ref:

2012-4057

Dear Phoebe Arnold,

Freedom of Information ref: 2012-4057

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 11th October 2012.
You asked:

I am writing to find out if you had a request in 2010 regarding the breakdown of UK households in receipt of housing benefit at various levels from £0 - £25 right up to £2000+.

Following a thorough search of the Departments 2010 electronic records, three separate Freedom of Information requests were found that closely matched your question.

Please see Annex 1 which details the questions asked, along with the response provided for each of the three requests.

You may be interested to know that the Department publishes a range of National Statistics on Housing Benefit on its website at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb>

The published analysis includes information on average weekly awards.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
Information, Governance and Security Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions



Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Annex 1

Freedom of Information request 2010-3595

Information request

This is to confirm my request to know the number of people receiving housing benefits in each of the bands below. I would be grateful to have the most recent available data, and also data for the same month last year.

DWP response

The table below provides a breakdown of Housing Benefit recipients by weekly award.

Number of Housing Benefit recipients by weekly award, Great Britain - September 2010 and September 2009.

Housing Benefit Weekly Award	September 2010 Caseload	September 2009 Caseload
£0-£49.99	587,390	643,930
£50-£99.99	3,128,620	2,987,920
£100-£199.99	899,290	752,400
£200-£299.99	113,330	86,600
£300-£399.99	28,600	33,800
£400-£499.99	6,340	5,240
£500-£599.99	1,980	1,630
£600-£699.99	720	620
£700-£799.99	840	390
£800-£899.99	100	90
£900-£999.99	70	80
£1000+	120	70

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month. A recipient can be a single individual or a family.
2. Data is rounded to the nearest 10.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
4. As statistics collated from SHBE are currently available on a monthly basis, they will vary from month to month as the caseload for the benefit changes as people come on to and stop receiving the benefit.

You may also be interested to know that the Department regularly publishes Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit National Statistics on its website at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb>

Freedom of Information request 2010-2990

Information request

1. *The number of people claiming housing benefit in each town in the UK*
2. *A breakdown of the number of claimants, for each town, receiving:*

in excess of £40,000 per year

35,000 to 40,000 per year

30,000 to 35,000

25,000 to 30,000

20,000 to 25,000

15,000 to 20,000

13,000 to 15,000

10,000 to 13,000

8000 to 10000

6000 to 80000

4000 to 6000

and up to 4000.

3. *For each of the groups described above, the mean number of people living in the claimants residence, including children.*

DWP response

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

In response to question 1, the Department regularly publishes Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit statistics on its website at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb> . The publication includes various breakdowns of Housing Benefit recipients by Region and Local Authority.

The following table gives a breakdown for questions 2 and 3 for the whole of Great Britain.

HB Award (£ per year)	HB recipients	Average Household Size (People)
£4,000 or less	2,645,060	2
£4-6,000	1,454,290	2
£6-10,000	482,630	2
£10-13,000	101,200	3
£13-15,000	25,910	3
£15-20,000	33,750	3
£20-25,000	6,250	4
£25-30,000	3,140	4
£30-35,000	820	5
£35-40,000	820	5
more than £40,000	400	6
Total	4,754,270	2

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract, August 2010.
Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Information at town level is not available. To provide this information would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. 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 and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

Freedom of Information request 2010-2102

Information request

Number of housing benefit customers receiving the following amounts per week: listed weekly amount bands from £0-99 to £1500 plus.

DWP response

The information you requested is detailed in the table below.

Housing Benefit Recipients by Average Weekly Award, May 2010

Average Weekly Award	Housing Benefit recipients
All	4,751,530
£0-£99	3,698,330
£100-£199	875,810
£200-£299	108,480
£300-£399	28,060
£400-£499	6,000
£500-£599	1,750
£600-£699	810
£700-£799	770
£800-£899	130
£900-£999	60
£1,000-£1,099	50
£1,100-£1,199	20
£1,200-£1,299	10
£1,300-£1,399	-
£1,400-£1,499	-
£1,500 and over	20
Amount not available	31,220

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

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at 13th May 2010.
2. Data is rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. '-' denotes nil or negligible.
4. May 2010 represents the latest data held.
5. Short term Housing Benefit recipients (less than 1% of the caseload) do not have a weekly amount available for this analysis. The amounts were recorded by the individual local authority at the time of the claim, but not recorded within the Single Housing Benefit Extract. Please refer to the published Definition and Methodology documentation for further information: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/caseload_meth.pdf .

For information the Department regularly publishes Housing Benefit statistics, including average award amounts, on its website at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb> .

Significant changes were made to Housing Benefit in the emergency Budget which include capping the Local Housing Allowance rates to a maximum of £400 per week for a 4 bed house.

