

Ad hoc statistics on early feedback from claimants who are at risk of having their benefit capped in April 2013

Numbers indicating they had entered employment or wanted to seek employment support, May and June 2012

July 2012

Background

The benefit cap is being introduced so that households on out-of-work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. This will make starting work more attractive and together with Universal Credit will ensure that work always pays.

Benefit payments for households will be capped at around the median earned income after tax and National Insurance for working families. The cap will be set at £500 a week for couples and lone parents and at £350 a week for single adults.

The Government is committed to supporting households who are identified as potentially being affected by the cap to move into or closer to the labour

market. Jobcentre Plus and its partners are offering a range of employment support to these households.

DWP began writing to all claimants potentially impacted by the cap on 4th May 2012. Subsequently, Jobcentre Plus has been contacting claimants to offer further advice and support.

Results

Between 4th May and 6th July, of the 58,000 claimants that have been contacted indicative information informs us approximately 1,700 claimants who might have been affected by the cap have moved into work and a further 5,000 have indicated they would like to receive support to get back to work. These figures have been taken from a DWP management information system and have not been subject to the validation and quality assurance checks that would be associated with National Statistics.

Notes

1. People identified as potentially impacted by the cap are claimants:
 - who are currently receiving more than the cap, or,
 - who we anticipate may be over the cap in April 2013.
2. These figures are based on claimant responses and have been collected via an operational system.

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