

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled people not receiving a passported benefit, England, January 2011

January 2012

Contents

- Background 3
- Methodology 4
- Results 6
 - Table 1a: Council tax benefit claimants by age group, family type and gender, England, January 2011..... 7
 - Table 1b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants by age group, family type and Gender, England, January 2011..... 8
 - Table 2b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants who are carers, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, employment status, family type and gender, England, January 2011 10
 - Table 3a: Council tax benefit claimants who are disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, by employment status, family type and gender, England, January 2011 11
 - Table 3b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants who are disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, employment status, family type and gender, England, January 2011 12
 - Table 4a: Council tax benefit claimants who are carers and/or disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, by employment status, family type and gender, England, January 2011 13
 - Table 4b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants who are carers and/or disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, employment status, family type and gender, England, January 2011 14

Background

Council Tax Benefit

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) was introduced in 1993. It is an income-related benefit administered by Local Authorities, designed to help people on low incomes pay their council tax. People are eligible only if they are liable to pay council tax (or are treated as if they were so liable) in respect of the dwelling they occupy as their home. Couples are treated as a single benefit unit. The amount of benefit depends on eligible council tax, family type, income and capital. In common with other income-related benefits, most people who have capital in excess of £16,000 are not entitled to Council Tax Benefit.

Eligibility for CTB may be passported on the basis of entitlement to most other income-related benefits – e.g income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and State Pension Credit.

CTB entitlement is calculated comparing income with the applicable amount. An applicable amount is the level of income at or below which full CTB is payable. It is made up of personal allowances which can be topped up with premiums that are designed to help certain groups of people (e.g. carers, and people who are disabled) as defined in the methodology section of the report.

Generally, full time students are not liable for council tax because most live in accommodation that is exempt. Where liability does arise, CTB is payable to prescribed vulnerable groups.

Further information on CTB can be found here:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/technical-guidance/rr2-a-guide-to-housing-benefit/>

Further data and statistics on CTB can be found here:

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

Further details can be found here:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/OtherBenefitsAndSupport/DG_068683

And here:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/CaringForSomeone/MoneyMatters/DG_10037637

Methodology

The following analysis is based on CTB cases where the claimant is **not** in receipt of a passported benefit (this represents one third of the total CTB caseload). Claimants in receipt of a passported benefit automatically receive the maximum CTB award, so determination of disability or carer status would not affect the level of award. For this reason, the recording of this information is not obligatory and quality assurance has indicated that collection across local authorities is extremely variable.

The analysis is, therefore, limited in two respects:

(a) CTB claimants who are in receipt of a passported benefit will include claimants who are carers and/or disabled, but it is not possible to accurately quantify this number from the available data;

(b) even for the cases where analysis was possible, the analysis is limited. Carers and disabled claimants were identified from the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for CTB claimants. Records were flagged where CTB claimants (or, where applicable, their partner) were recorded to be in receipt of any of the following premiums:

- Carer Premium (CP)
- Disability Premium (DP)
- Severe Disability Premium (SDP)
- Enhanced Disability Premium (EDP)

These categories will not capture cases where dependent children are disabled, nor where the claimant and/or partner is in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance.

The age breakdown presented in this analysis relates to 16-64 and 65 plus to ensure consistency with published National Statistics on CTB claimants. However, it should be noted that disability premium is only available to people aged below qualifying age for Pension Credit. Claimants above this threshold instead qualify for the higher, pensioner personal allowances.

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance (QA) was carried out on CTB non-passported claimants both recorded and not recorded as disabled or carer.

The QA included checks of consistency over time and across local authorities.

In addition, individual records were matched with records on the National Benefits Database (NBD) which contains data on people claiming DWP benefits such as Incapacity Benefit, Attendance Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance. This confirmed that the recording of carer / disability within the SHBE data correlated very closely with data from the NBD.

Results

Table 1a shows the total number of CTB claimants in England in January 2011, for age groups, whether on a passporting or non-passporting benefit, family type and gender.

- There were a total of 4,941,340 CTB claimants

Table 1b shows the average weekly CTB award within the same subgroups.

- The average weekly award for all claims was £16.30
- The highest average award was as a passported award to couples 65 or over with child dependants (£21.99)

Table 2a shows the number of CTB claimants in England in January 2011 who are carers, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, by employment status, family type and gender.

- There were 34,790 carer claimants.

Table 2b shows the average weekly CTB award to the groups in table 2a.

- The average weekly award in this total group was £16.78

Table 3a shows the number of CTB claimants who are disabled in the same categories as table 2a.

- The total number of disabled claimants was 219,580.

Table 3b shows the average weekly award for the groups in table 3a

- The average weekly CTB award for the total group was £14.58

Table 4a shows the number of CTB claimants who are either carers or disabled or both, under 65 and not on a passported benefit. This is the combined results of tables 2a and 3a after avoiding duplication.

- The total number of claimants in this group is 238,670

Table 4b shows the average weekly award for the categories in table 4a

- The average weekly award was £14.71

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 1a: Council tax benefit claimants by age group, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Age Group / Passported Status	Total	Family Type/Gender									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant	Couple with child dependant(s)
		All genders	Male	Female	Unknown	All genders	Male	Female	Unknown		
Under 65											
Passported	2,098,840	996,410	547,130	446,750	2,530	666,900	37,430	627,740	1,730	200,990	234,530
Non-passported	968,620	379,200	197,120	180,610	1,470	275,690	16,190	258,120	1,380	77,250	236,470
Passported status unknown	7,680	4,690	1,790	2,820	80	110	-	110	-	2,800	90
Total under 65	3,075,140	1,380,310	746,040	630,180	4,090	942,700	53,630	885,970	3,110	281,040	471,090
Over 65											
Passported	1,204,730	943,870	215,660	727,230	980	3,290	1,090	2,200	-	250,070	7,500
Non-passported	660,680	416,240	145,920	269,800	520	1,200	560	640	-	239,780	3,460
Passported status unknown	640	380	120	260	10	-	-	-	-	250	-
Total 65 or over	1,866,050	1,360,490	361,710	997,280	1,510	4,490	1,650	2,830	-	490,100	10,970
Age unknown											
Passported	120	80	30	40	10	40	-	40	-	-	-
Non-passported	40	20	10	10	-	10	-	10	-	-	-
Passported status unknown	10	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total age unknown	160	110	40	60	10	50	-	50	-	-	-
TOTAL	4,941,340	2,740,910	1,107,790	1,627,520	5,600	947,240	55,280	888,850	3,110	771,140	482,050

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates category contains fewer than 5 cases

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 1b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants by age group, family type and Gender, England¹, January 2011

Age Group / Passported Status	Total £	Family Type/Gender									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant £	Couple with child dependant(s) £
		Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £	Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £		
Under 65											
Passported	17.17	15.65	15.09	16.34	15.68	16.84	16.66	16.86	17.09	20.91	21.30
Non-passported	14.03	13.01	13.05	12.96	13.16	12.43	14.07	12.33	12.08	15.19	17.16
Passported status unknown	15.59	13.38	14.58	13.02		12.82	9.09	12.93	-	19.39	16.11
Total under 65	16.17	14.92	14.55	15.35	14.45	15.55	15.87	15.54	14.87	19.32	19.22
Over 65											
Passported	17.71	16.47	16.02	16.60	17.84	17.94	18.00	17.91	20.44	22.26	21.99
Non-passported	14.31	12.99	12.14	13.45	13.51	17.39	17.23	17.53	13.67	16.48	21.35
Passported status unknown	15.52	14.78	12.95	15.93	-	5.53	-	5.53	-	16.70	15.43
Total 65 or over	16.50	15.40	14.45	15.75	16.28	17.79	17.74	17.82	18.18	19.43	21.79
Age unknown											
Passported	16.55	16.07	15.79	16.95	13.27	17.20	18.10	17.15	-	28.94	-
Non-passported	12.08	10.31	10.41	10.19	-	17.28	-	17.28	-	-	2.43
Passported status unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total age unknown	14.94	13.92	13.75	14.16	13.27	17.22	18.10	-	-	28.94	2.43
TOTAL	16.30	15.16	14.52	15.59	14.94	15.56	15.93	15.54	14.87	19.39	19.28

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates category contains fewer than 5 cases or missing award data

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 2a: Council tax benefit claimants who are carers, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, by employment status, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Employment Status	Total	Family Type/Gender									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant	Couple with child dependant(s)
		Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown		
In employment	17,530	1,360	240	1,120	-	3,680	110	3,560	10	2,280	10,220
Not in employment	17,250	2,920	1,100	1,820	10	3,540	230	3,310	10	6,380	4,410
Total Carers	34,790	4,280	1,340	2,930	10	7,220	340	6,870	10	8,650	14,630
Total non-passported, under 65	968,620	379,200	197,120	180,610	1,470	275,690	16,190	258,120	1,380	77,250	236,470

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates less category contains less than 5

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 2b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants who are carers, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, employment status, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Employment Status	Total £	Family Type									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant £	Couple with child dependant(s) £
		Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £	Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £		
In employment	15.70	13.52	12.98	13.64	-	13.22	14.05	13.19	14.92	15.17	17.00
Not in employment	17.88	15.43	15.05	15.66	16.41	17.92	16.80	17.99	18.53	16.98	20.78
Total Carers	16.78	14.82	14.68	14.89	14.50	15.53	15.93	15.50	16.21	16.51	18.14

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

"-" indicates less category contains less than 5

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 3a: Council tax benefit claimants who are disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, by employment status, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Employment Status	Total	Family Type									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant	Couple with child dependant(s)
		Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown		
In employment	38,900	8,620	3,630	4,960	30	4,590	260	4,300	20	8,740	16,960
Not in employment	180,680	134,300	81,480	52,640	180	18,820	3,090	15,690	30	13,350	14,210
Total Disabled Claimants	219,580	142,920	85,120	57,600	210	23,400	3,360	19,990	60	22,090	31,170
Total non-passported, under 65	968,620	379,200	197,120	180,610	1,470	275,690	16,190	258,120	1,380	77,250	236,470

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates less category contains less than 5

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 3b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants who are disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, employment status, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Employment	Total £	Family Type									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant £	Couple with child dependant(s) £
		Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £	Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £		
In employment	14.39	11.17	11.02	11.28	11.44	12.91	13.35	12.90	11.02	13.26	17.00
Not in employment	14.63	13.63	13.22	14.25	13.85	16.73	16.12	16.85	16.27	15.68	20.30
Total Disabled Claimants	14.58	13.48	13.13	14.00	13.50	15.98	15.90	16.00	14.21	14.72	18.50

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates less category contains less than 5

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 4a: Council tax benefit claimants who are carers and/or disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, by employment status, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Employment Status	Total	Family Type									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant	Couple with child dependant(s)
		Total	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Unknown		
In employment	50,080	9,900	3,860	6,010	30	7,380	350	7,000	30	9,840	22,970
Not in employment	188,590	136,480	82,260	54,040	180	21,030	3,230	17,770	40	15,870	15,210
Total Carers/Disabled Claimants	238,670	146,380	86,110	60,060	220	28,410	3,580	24,770	60	25,700	38,170
Total non-passported, under 65	968,620	379,200	197,120	180,610	1,470	275,690	16,190	258,120	1,380	77,250	236,470

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates less category contains less than 5

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

Council Tax Benefit claimants and average weekly award for carers and disabled, England, January 2011

Table 4b: Average weekly award for council tax benefit claimants who are carers and/or disabled, under 65 and not on a passported benefit, employment status, family type and gender, England¹, January 2011

Employment Status	Total	Family Type									
		Single, no child dependant				Single with child dependant(s)				Couple, no child dependant	Couple with child dependant(s)
		Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £	Total £	Male £	Female £	Unknown £		
In employment	14.58	11.47	11.13	11.69	11.41	12.97	13.44	12.95	12.21	13.52	16.88
Not in employment	14.74	13.65	13.24	14.28	13.93	16.84	16.14	16.97	16.28	15.91	20.35
Total Carers/ Disabled Claimants	14.71	13.51	13.14	14.02	13.53	15.84	15.88	15.84	14.54	15.00	18.27

¹ Excluding Isles of Scilly

“-“ indicates less category contains less than 5

Source: SHBE, January 2011.

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten

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