

# Freedom of Information request 2012-4305

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## Information request

The number of couples in paid work who received a) Housing Benefit or b) Council Tax Benefit c) Both HB and CTB during each year since 2000. The years can be expressed either as calendar years or financial years.

## DWP response

The data requested is not available prior to November 2008.

The economic status of all Housing Benefit (HB) recipients is not available. Information is only available for those recipients whose claim is not passported: that is for those who do not receive either Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (Income-Based), Employment and Support Allowance (Income Based), or Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit). A small proportion of the passported cases will be in part-time employment.

The available information for non-passported Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit recipients is given in the table below:

### Number of couples receiving non-passported Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit in each year since 2008 who are in employment.

Month	Number of couples in receipt of Housing Benefit	Number of couples in receipt of Council Tax Benefit	Number of couples in receipt of both Housing and Council Tax Benefit
Nov-08	144,500	149,110	106,680
Aug-09	181,910	186,510	132,750
Aug-10	256,120	263,370	198,850
Aug-11	308,590	306,020	239,670
Aug-12	347,820	334,150	269,170

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

Notes:

1. The data refers to benefit unit couples

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and August 2012 is the latest available.
5. This data refers to people receiving Housing Benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified and are therefore not included in this analysis.
6. For those in employment this data refers to people receiving benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified therefore we cannot provide accurate data for those who are employed.
7. Figures for all HB and all CTB will include overlaps as the majority of claimants receive both benefits.