

# Freedom of Information request 2013-765

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## Information request

1. Please could you tell me how many housing benefit customers receive the following amounts per week? Listed weekly amount bands from £0-99 to £1500 plus.

2. Please provide me with a list of the number of claimants from each local authority area where the value of the claim is in excess of £999.99 per week.

## DWP response

In response to question 1, the number of Housing Benefit recipients who received the specific banded amounts per week in Great Britain, at November 2012, is available in the table below;

### Number of Housing Benefit recipients broken down by weekly amount received in Great Britain: November 2012

Weekly amount received	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,050,400</b>
£0 - £99.99	3,701,420
£100 - £199.99	1,150,250
£200 - £299.99	139,470
£300 - £399.99	25,650
£400 - £499.99	4,630
£500 - £599.99	1,680
£600 - £699.99	260
£700 - £799.99	140
£800 - £899.99	30
£900 - £999.99	30
£1000 - £1099.99	10
£1100 - £1199.99	-
£1200 - £1299.99	10
£1300 - £1399.99	-
£1400 - £1499.99	-
£1500+	10
Missing / Unknown	26,810

**Source:** Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

**Notes:**

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; “-“denotes nil or negligible.
2. Recipients are as at the second Thursday of the month.
3. 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 November 2012 is the most recent available.
4. It is possible that errors can occur in the recording of weekly award (both on a form and inputting onto a computer system within the local authority that is processing the claim). In particular, it is possible that, for some claimant records, the monthly award may be recorded instead of the weekly award. Therefore, care should be taken when looking at high weekly award bands.
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 SHBE.

In response to question 2, the number of Housing Benefit recipients from each Local Authority area where the amount received is in excess of £999.99 per week in Great Britain, at November 2012, is available in the table below;

**Total number of Housing Benefit recipients where the amount received is in excess of £999.99 per week by Local Authority: November 2012**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Total</b>
Westminster	30

**For those Local Authorities not listed above, the number of recipients is "-", which denotes nil or negligible.**

**Source:** Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

**Notes:**

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; “-“denotes nil or negligible.
2. Recipients are as at the second Thursday of the month.
3. This data incorporates the local authority changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

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 November 2012 is the most recent available.
5. It is possible that errors can occur in the recording of weekly award (both on a form and inputting onto a computer system within the local authority that is processing the claim). In particular, it is possible that, for some claimant records, the monthly award may be recorded instead of the weekly award. Therefore, care should be taken when looking at high weekly award bands broken down by local authority.
6. 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 SHBE.