

Freedom of Information request 2012-4226

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Information request

Request 2012-4226-1

1. The number of housing benefit recipients aged 16-25 from January 2004 – December 2009
2. The information above but split by single year of age below 25
3. The information in point 1, split by those in the social rented sector and in the private rented sector
4. The information in point 1, split by family type (single with dependent children, single no children, couple with dependent children, couple no dependent children)
5. The total number of claims by those aged over 25, with a partner aged under 25 – broken down by tenure (SRS, PRS) and family type (children, no children)

Request 2012-4226-2

1. The number of housing benefit recipients aged 16-25 from January 2010 – April 2012
2. The information above but split by single year of age below 25
3. The information in point 1, split by those in the social rented sector and in the private rented sector
4. The information in point 1, split by family type (single with dependent children, single no children, couple with dependent children, couple no dependent children)

DWP response

In response to all questions in Request 2012-4226-1; the information on the number of housing benefit recipients aged under 25, from January 2004 – December 2008 is not readily available.

The Department publishes a wide range of statistics on benefit claimants on its website via the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Summary Statistics at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/index.php?page=hbctb_arc

This allows you to view historical summaries dating back to February 2002, which include analysis by local authority. However, Housing Benefit levels for recipients of a certain age were not measured and thus, analysis on your requested age group cannot be completed for any date earlier than January 2009.

In order to assess whether this information exists would require us to check each individual record which would take the cost of collation above 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 this part of your request and we will not be processing this further.

However, in response to all of your second request and part of your first request, a time series which provides the requested information from January 2009 to April 2012 is available in the attached Excel file (FOI 2012-4226-1-2 Final.xls). The information has been given in a month-by-month time series and broken down into Age Group, Family type and Tenure type as requested.

In response to question 5) in Request 2012-4226-1; you will find in the attached Excel file two tables for the months January 2009 through to December 2009 which show the total number of recipients aged 25 and over with a partner under the age of 25 broken down by Family type and Tenure type.