

Freedom of Information request 2012-3212

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Information request

What is the total amount of money spent on the Welfare budget and the % of that budget given to Non-British Nationals in totality by category for JSA, Housing and other categories that you provide monies to Non-British Nationals.

DWP response

In response to your question about the total amount of money spent on the welfare budget Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes Benefit expenditure statistics on its website which can be accessed via the following link.

<http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure>

In response to the second part of your question:

At present, the specific information sought about the nationality of people claiming benefits is not available. The Department's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits. For contributory benefits nationality is not a qualifying factor, as eligibility is determined by the National Insurance contributions that the claimant has made.

For other benefits where residency conditions apply we do need to check nationality to ensure that the claimant is lawfully resident in the country. Therefore for these benefits nationality is established as part of the claims process, but since it not required for further processing the claim, it is not recorded on our computer systems.

The information we do hold to help answer your question is detailed below.

The proportion of total benefit receipt (amount of benefit received) as reported in the Family Resource Survey (FRS) in 2010/11:

Benefit units with no-one born outside the UK = 88%

Benefit units with at least one adult born outside the UK = 12%.

Definitions:**Benefit Unit:**

A single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children; same-sex partners (civil partners and cohabitees) are included in the same benefit unit.

Adult:

All those individuals who are aged 16 and over, unless defined as a dependent child; all adults in the household are interviewed as part of the Family Resources Survey.

Benefit receipt:

A list of benefits included is available from:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2010_11/glossary.pdf

Outside the UK:

Respondents are asked their country of origin during the FRS interview.

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent.
2. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors that control for tenure type Council Tax Band and a number of demographic variables.
3. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-sampling bias.
4. The FRS is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across all benefit units (irrespective of country of origin). See the FRS 2010/11 methodology chapter for further information

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2010_11/chapter9.pdf

The latest release of the FRS can be found via the link below.

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

The figures above do not include a breakdown by category of benefit. This information is not readily available on the datasets available for analysis. We estimate that the cost of researching this piece of information would exceed 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.