

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000900
Date 20 February 2017

Benefit Cap

Request:

I am writing to make a request for information which I am entitled to ask for under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please will you answer the following questions which relate to the benefit cap:

1. How many households, affected by the benefit cap, are now receiving 50p a week in housing benefit?
As at the 20.02.2017 we have 123 households affected by the benefit cap who are receiving housing benefit of 50p per week.
2. How many households (from question 1) would have their benefits reduced further if the cap could be applied to other types of benefits, as well as housing benefit?
It is fair to assume that most of the 123 households identified as receiving a 50p capped housing benefit award could be subject to a further reduction in benefit should the current benefit cap threshold be extended to include other benefits. This is because the 50p award is made in the main to all households whose income is above their applicable benefit cap threshold.
3. How many of the households (from question 1) were affected by the £26,000 cap?
75 of the 123 households currently affected by the November 2016 Benefit Cap were also subject to the £26,000.00 p.a. benefit cap threshold.
4. How many of the households (from question 1) were receiving 50p a week housing benefit as a result of the £26,000 cap and would have their benefits reduced further if the cap could be applied to other types of benefits, as well as housing benefit?
7 of the 123 households identified for question one were also receiving 50p per week housing benefit when subject to the £26,000.00 Benefit Cap. It is fair to assume that they could have their benefits reduced further should the cap be applied to other benefits.
5. What is the average amount a household, which is currently receiving 50p a week in housing benefit, stands to lose once they move over to Universal Credit if they are over the threshold of the cap?

Unfortunately we are unable to comment on how much these households stand to lose once they move over to Universal Credit as we only hold data in regards to their current calculation of housing benefit.

6. In total, how much less will be given each week in benefits to households in the area which are currently receiving 50p housing benefit when they are all moved over to universal credit and the cap can be fully applied?

Again we are unable to comment on how much less these households in total will receive as we do not hold data in regards to the calculation of Universal Credit for those persons subject to the benefit cap.

7. What is the average amount of housing benefit reduction faced by the households who are now receiving 50p a week housing benefit and should have more taken from them if the cap could be applied to other benefits?

The average weekly Housing Benefit reduction for those households currently receiving a 50p capped award is £104.04.