

Data Management and Analysis Group

Benefits Data for London No.4 Housing and Council Tax Benefits



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Benefits Data for London No.4: Housing and Council Tax Benefits

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Benefits Data for London

No.4: Housing and Council Tax Benefits

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Main Findings

- In 2004, there were 661 thousand households in London claiming Housing Benefit – the highest regional number in Great Britain – this is just over 21 per cent of all households in London.
- 75 per cent of Housing Benefit claimants in London are in receipt of Income Support, Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) or Jobseekers Allowance (Incapacity Benefit part).
- The total number of Housing Benefit recipients in London increased by 7.5 per cent from 2003 – the largest increase in the country.
- The amount of a tenant's rental liability in London, which can be met by Housing Benefit, is the highest in Great Britain for all tenure types.
- The average weekly payments for all Housing Benefit claimants in London was just over £91, £30 more than the average for Great Britain.
- Of the non-local authority tenants in London, average weekly rent allowance payment for those renting from private landlords was £125. The average for Great Britain is £77.
- Over 690 thousand households in London were claiming Council Tax Benefit in 2004, an increase of 7.8 per cent from 2003.
- Over 22 per cent of households in London claimed Council Tax Benefit in 2004.
- The London Borough of Hackney has the highest rate of Housing Benefit claimants, not only in London but also in the whole of Great Britain – with 38 per cent. This is followed closely by Tower Hamlets with 37 per cent – the second highest in the country.
- Two thirds of all the London boroughs have Housing Benefit rates above the Great Britain average.
- Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of households claiming Council Tax Benefit in London with 37 per cent – this is the 6th highest rate in the country.

Introduction

Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) are income-related benefits administered by Local Authorities. People are eligible to claim HB if they are liable to pay rent. CTB is designed to help people on low-income pay their Council Tax.

Housing Benefit

People are eligible to receive HB only if they are liable to pay rent in respect of the dwelling they occupy as their home. Couples are treated as a single benefit unit. The amount of benefit depends on eligible rent, income, deductions in respect of any non-dependants, deductions where food, fuel and water are included. People who are liable to pay rent but who have capital in excess of £16,000 are not entitled to Housing Benefit.

'Eligible rent' is the amount of a tenant's rental liability, which can be met by Housing Benefit. Payments made by owner occupiers do not count but payments such as mooring charges for houseboats, site fees for mobile homes, rental purchase payments and payments for compulsory housing - all count for Housing Benefit. Deductions are made for service charges in the rent that relate to personal needs, such as the supply of meals. Housing Benefit may also be reduced if the amount of rent payable is unreasonably high or the accommodation is over-large for the household or if the claimant or their partner is a full time student.

The 'Local Reference Rent (LRR) Scheme' was introduced on 2 January 1996 and has been applied to new and change of address claims from certain private sector tenants, claiming on or after that date. The LRR is an average amount of rent, which reflects the general level of rents for similar sized properties in the locality of the tenancy, and it is an additional value used in the calculation of the eligible amount. However, where the Claim Related Rent is more than the LRR, generally, 50 per cent of the difference between the Claim Related Rent and the LRR is met, thereby increasing the amount of eligible rent used to calculate Housing Benefit.

On 6 October 1997, the LRR Scheme rules were amended, and the 50 per cent addition was removed from the calculation of the eligible rent for all new claims.

On 7 October 1996, the 'Single Room Rent (SRR) Scheme' was applied to single people under 25 without dependent children in certain private sector tenancies. The SRR is an average amount of rent reflecting the general level of rents for a single room with shared facilities in the locality of the tenancy. The SRR restricts the amount of rent, which can be used to calculate HB.

The authorities have discretion to allow higher amounts of HB to alleviate exceptional hardship where the LRR or SRR restricts the amount of rent used to calculate HB.

Council Tax Benefit

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) is designed to help people on low incomes pay their council tax. Generally, it mirrors the Housing Benefit scheme in the calculation of claimants' applicable amount, resources and deductions in respect of any non-dependants. There are two types of Council Tax Benefit:

Main Council Tax Benefit, and Second Adult Rebate.

Main Council Tax Benefit can help people who are liable to pay the council tax whether in or out of work. It is paid by rebating a person's council tax bill. Those paid as in receipt of Income Support/ Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) /Jobseekers Allowance (IB) can get up to 100 per cent help, subject to any non-dependant deductions that may be appropriate. People not in receipt of Income Support/MIG/Jobseekers Allowance (IB) have their benefit assessed in a similar way to Housing Benefit, but the maximum Council Tax Benefit is reduced by 20 per cent of any net income above their applicable amount. People who are liable for the council tax but who have capital in excess of £16,000 are not entitled to Council Tax Benefit.

Help is also available to people who are solely liable for the tax and who have a second adult in their households who would normally be expected to contribute to the council tax bill but cannot afford to do so. These are called Second Adult Rebates and they are assessed on the basis of the financial circumstances of the second adult, not of those of the liable taxpayer. Rebates of up to 25 per cent may be awarded.

Where a person is entitled to both main Council Tax Benefit and second adult rebate, the Local Authority is required to make a "better buy" calculation and award the liable person whichever amount of benefit is the greater.

Full time students are not generally liable for council tax because most live in accommodation that is exempt. Where liability does arise, Council Tax Benefit is not payable on the same grounds as for Housing Benefit (except to the same prescribed vulnerable groups).

Where an Income Support/JSA (IB) claimant is responsible for payment of housing costs for their home, an amount may be included in their benefit for Mortgage Interest payments (excluding capital repayments). At October 1995, claimants aged under 60 could have 50 per cent of their mortgage payments met through Income Support/JSA (IB) for the first 26 weeks of their claim, and the full amount from then on. Claimants (or their partner) aged 60 and over can have the full amount met from the outset of their claim. The amount allowed for housing costs may be reduced to take account of contributions that other adults in the households would be expected to make.

Regional Analysis

Housing Benefit

Two statistical returns are collected (one for claims paid as in receipt of Income Support/MIG/Jobseekers Allowance (IB) and one for where they are not) from each Local Authority.

In 2004, there were 661 thousand households in London claiming Housing Benefit - the highest regional number in Great Britain - this is just over 21 per cent of all households in London, this is slightly lower than the North East, which has the highest percentage in the country. The rest of the South East has the lowest percentage of households claiming Housing Benefit with only 11.6 per cent. 75 per cent of Housing Benefit claimants in London are in receipt of Income Support, MIG or Jobseekers Allowance (IB).

The total number of Housing Benefit recipients in London increased by 7.5 per cent from 2003 - the largest increase in the country (see Table 1). This increase was mainly due to London having the only increase in the number of households who were claiming housing benefit but not in receipt of other benefits.

Table 1 Annual percentage change in Housing Benefit caseload by region, 03-04
(Thousands & percentages)

Source: DWP

Region	August 2003			August 2004			% Change		
	All HB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	All HB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	All HB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)
Great Britain	3,813.6	2,718.0	1,095.6	3,943.6	2,869.3	1,074.3	3.4%	5.6%	-1.9%
England	3,177.6	2,255.3	922.3	3,291.9	2,387.7	904.2	3.6%	5.9%	-2.0%
North East	234.7	168.0	66.7	230.8	168.3	62.5	-1.6%	0.2%	-6.3%
North West	505.7	379.7	125.9	522.3	396.5	125.7	3.3%	4.4%	-0.2%
Yorks & the Humber	343.4	248.7	94.7	346.4	256.0	90.4	0.9%	2.9%	-4.5%
East Midlands	229.3	162.2	67.1	238.0	173.6	64.3	3.8%	7.1%	-4.2%
West Midlands	351.7	254.5	97.3	352.9	263.5	89.4	0.3%	3.5%	-8.1%
East	271.4	180.7	90.7	282.1	195.2	86.9	3.9%	8.0%	-4.2%
London	615.1	453.0	162.1	661.0	491.5	169.5	7.5%	8.5%	4.6%
South East	365.5	232.9	132.7	388.2	256.6	131.6	6.2%	10.2%	-0.8%
South West	260.9	175.8	85.1	270.2	186.5	83.8	3.6%	6.1%	-1.6%
Wales	197.5	147.0	50.5	200.8	153.0	47.9	1.7%	4.0%	-5.2%
Scotland	438.4	315.7	122.7	450.8	328.6	122.2	2.8%	4.1%	-0.4%

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of new tax credits in April 2003 and the introduction of Pension Credits in November 2003.

Table 2 shows the number of Housing Benefit recipients by tenure. In London the number claiming are split exactly between those in local authority housing and those not. In Great Britain just over 46 per cent were Local Authority tenants.

Of those households that are claiming Housing Benefit and are non-local authority tenants in London, 63 per cent were paying rent to registered social landlords, with the rest paying rents to private landlords – this is very close to the percentages for Great Britain.

Table 2 Housing Benefit caseload by Region (GOR) and tenure, August 2004

Source: DWP

Region	All HB recipients	Rent Rebate	Rent Allowance			All HB recipients as % of all households (2001 Census)
		LA tenants	Non LA tenants	Registered Social Landlord tenants	Private Tenants	
Great Britain	3,943.6	1,819.4	2,124.2	1,349.4	774.8	16.3%
England	3,291.9	1,478.0	1,813.9	1,136.8	677.1	15.9%
North East	230.8	121.7	109.1	71.8	37.4	21.4%
North West	522.3	200.6	321.6	208.3	113.4	18.5%
Yorks and the Humber	346.4	196.8	149.7	81.8	67.9	16.6%
East Midlands	238.0	132.7	105.3	62.1	43.2	13.7%
West Midlands	352.9	153.7	199.1	141.4	57.7	16.4%
East	282.1	130.2	151.9	95.2	56.8	12.5%
London	661.0	330.5	330.5	208.0	122.5	21.2%
South East	388.2	125.1	263.1	164.2	98.9	11.6%
South West	270.2	86.7	183.5	104.0	79.5	12.9%
Wales	200.8	110.0	90.8	45.4	45.4	16.9%
Scotland	450.8	231.4	219.5	167.2	52.3	20.3%

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of new tax credits in April 2003 and the introduction of Pension Credits in November 2003.

Table 3 shows the average weekly amounts paid as Housing Benefit by tenure. The amount of a tenant's rental liability in London, which can be met by Housing Benefit, is the highest in Great Britain for all tenure types – as London has the highest rates of rent in the country this is hardly surprising. Table 4 shows the recipients eligible rent.

The average weekly payments for all Housing Benefit claimants in London was just over £91, £30 more than the average for Great Britain. The region with the next highest payments was the South East with £69. For local authority tenants this amounted to £80 as rent rebate and nearly £103 for non-local authority tenants as rent allowance.

Chart 1 Housing Benefit caseload by region, percentage of all households, 2004

Source: DWP

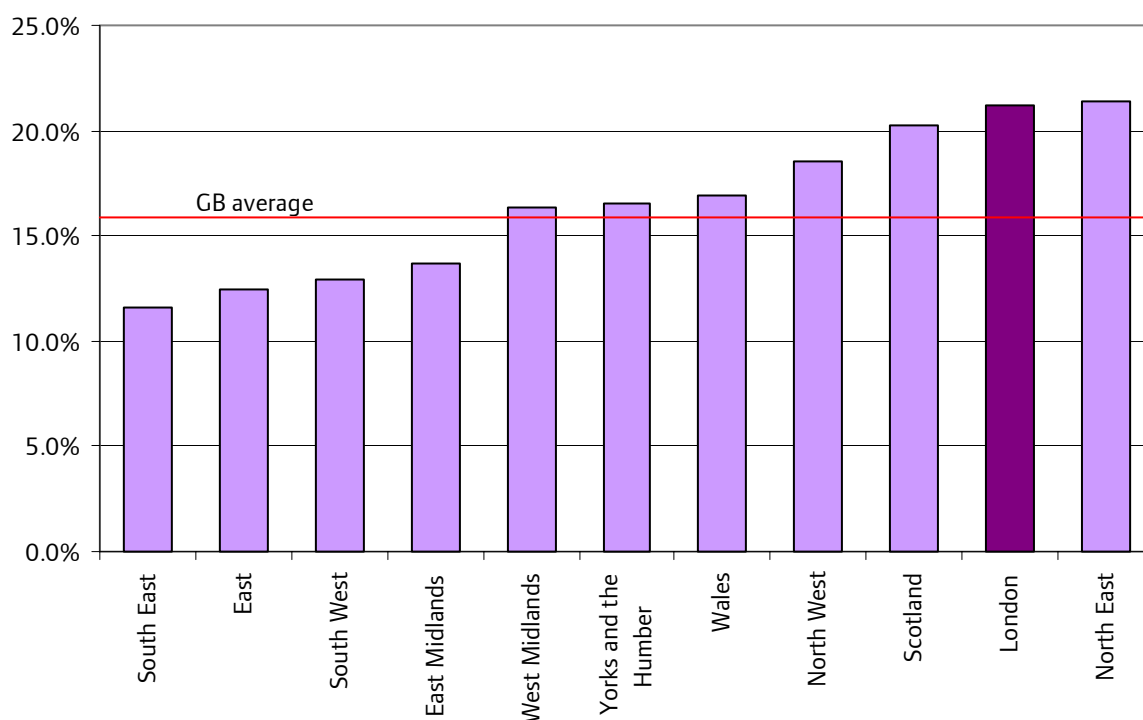


Table 3 All Housing Benefit recipients average weekly amounts by Region (GOR) and tenure, August 2004, £p

Source: DWP

Region	All HB recipients	Rent Rebate	Rent Allowance		
		LA tenants	Non LA tenants	Registered Social Landlord tenants	Private Tenants (excluding RSL tenants)
Great Britain	60.29	52.26	67.16	61.33	77.31
England	62.68	54.31	69.51	63.51	79.58
North East	47.78	42.67	53.49	51.49	57.34
North West	53.05	46.30	57.26	54.35	62.60
Yorks and the Humber	48.68	42.60	56.68	55.09	58.60
East Midlands	49.33	43.78	56.32	55.05	58.16
West Midlands	53.31	47.18	58.04	54.49	66.74
East	59.96	51.23	67.44	61.61	77.21
London	91.33	79.88	102.79	89.78	124.87
South East	69.28	56.27	75.46	66.86	89.74
South West	59.24	48.75	64.20	57.98	72.34
Wales	51.22	46.31	57.17	55.43	58.91
Scotland	46.86	42.06	51.92	48.15	63.98

Table 4 All Housing Benefit recipients weekly eligible rent by Region (GOR) and tenure, August 2004, £p

Source: DWP

Region	All HB recipients	Rent Rebate	Rent Allowance		
		LA tenants	Non LA tenants	Registered Social Landlord tenants	Private Tenants (excluding RSL tenants)
Great Britain	64.66	55.91	72.15	65.51	83.73
England	67.31	58.16	74.78	67.89	86.33
North East	51.11	45.84	56.98	55.01	60.76
North West	56.38	49.29	60.80	57.52	66.82
Yorks and the Humber	51.83	45.45	60.21	58.33	62.47
East Midlands	52.94	46.75	60.74	58.69	63.69
West Midlands	56.95	50.40	62.00	57.93	71.99
East	65.21	55.51	73.52	66.40	85.45
London	97.21	85.16	109.26	95.13	133.24
South East	76.10	61.25	83.16	73.15	99.78
South West	64.78	52.53	70.57	62.70	80.87
Wales	54.21	49.08	60.42	58.33	62.51
Scotland	49.95	44.82	55.35	51.25	68.43

Of the non-local authority tenants in London, average weekly rent allowance payments for those renting from registered social landlords amounted to £90 (£61 for Great Britain) this compares to £125 for renting from private landlords – the average for Great Britain is £77.

Council Tax Benefit

Over 690 thousand households in London were claiming Council Tax Benefit in 2004, an increase of 7.8 per cent from 2003. The South East had a slightly higher percentage increase with eight per cent, which was mainly due to the largest percentage increase in Great Britain of recipients who were paid council tax benefit in receipt of Income Support, MIG or Jobseekers Allowance (IB).

London however had the largest percentage increase in Great Britain of recipients who were paid Council Tax Benefit not in receipt of these benefits – up by 4.2 per cent (see Table 5).

Over 22 per cent of households in London claimed Council Tax Benefit. There were five other regions in Great Britain with a higher percentage including Scotland and Wales. The North East had the highest percentage of households claiming Council Tax Benefit with just over 27 per cent (see Chart 2).

Like housing benefit the average weekly amounts of Council Tax Benefit and average weekly amounts of eligible Council Tax for London are the highest in the country for recipients of other benefits and those not claiming other benefits (see Table 7).

Table 5 Annual percentage change in Council Tax Benefit caseload by Region (GOR) paid as in receipt of/not in receipt of IS/MIG/JSA(IB)

Source: DWP

Region	August 2003			August 2004			% Change		
	All CTB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	All CTB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	All CTB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)
		MIG or JSA(IB)	MIG or JSA(IB)		MIG or JSA(IB)	MIG or JSA(IB)		MIG or JSA(IB)	
Great Britain	4,652.9	3,231.7	1,421.1	4,892.6	3,458.2	1,434.4	5.2%	7.0%	0.9%
England	3,870.5	2,689.7	1,180.8	4,075.9	2,883.2	1,192.7	5.3%	7.2%	1.0%
North East	289.7	197.4	92.2	292.9	200.8	92.1	1.1%	1.7%	-0.2%
North West	644.3	463.0	181.3	674.9	488.6	186.3	4.7%	5.5%	2.7%
Yorks & the Humber	431.1	303.5	127.6	444.1	315.9	128.2	3.0%	4.1%	0.5%
East Midlands	299.4	203.6	95.8	318.4	221.8	96.6	6.3%	9.0%	0.8%
West Midlands	463.0	323.6	139.4	478.1	342.8	135.3	3.2%	5.9%	-3.0%
East	343.1	226.3	116.8	363.7	247.5	116.2	6.0%	9.4%	-0.5%
London	640.7	475.5	165.2	690.6	518.4	172.2	7.8%	9.0%	4.2%
South East	434.6	280.8	153.8	469.3	312.7	156.6	8.0%	11.3%	1.8%
South West	324.6	216.0	108.6	344.0	234.6	109.3	6.0%	8.6%	0.7%
Wales	258.7	190.1	68.6	269.0	201.1	67.9	4.0%	5.8%	-1.1%
Scotland	523.7	351.9	171.7	547.7	373.9	173.8	4.6%	6.2%	1.2%

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of new tax credits in April 2003 and the introduction of Pension Credits in November 2003.

Chart 2 Council Tax Benefit caseload by Region, percentage of all households, 2004

Source: DWP

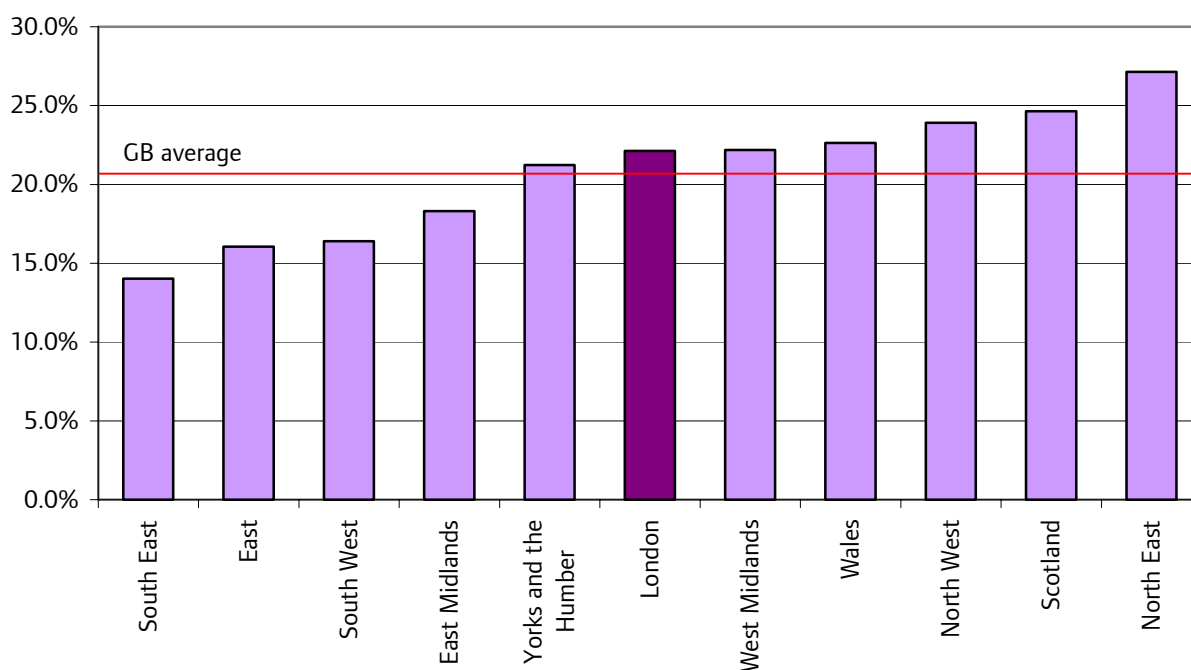


Table 6 Council Tax Benefit caseload by Region (GOR) paid as in receipt of/not in receipt of IS/MIG/JSA(IB), August 2004

Source: DWP

Region	All CTB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	All CTB recipients as % of all households (2001 Census)	Second Adult Rebates not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)
Great Britain	4,892.6	3,458.2	1,434.4	20.3%	34.6
England	4,075.9	2,883.2	1,192.7	19.7%	30.2
North East	292.9	200.8	92.1	27.1%	4.5
North West	674.9	488.6	186.3	23.9%	5.0
Yorks and the Humber	444.1	315.9	128.2	21.2%	4.3
East Midlands	318.4	221.8	96.6	18.3%	1.7
West Midlands	478.1	342.8	135.3	22.2%	3.5
East	363.7	247.5	116.2	16.1%	2.9
London	690.6	518.4	172.2	22.1%	2.7
South East	469.3	312.7	156.6	14.0%	3.2
South West	344.0	234.6	109.3	16.4%	2.3
Wales	269.0	201.1	67.9	22.6%	1.3
Scotland	547.7	373.9	173.8	24.6%	3.1

Table 7: Average weekly amounts of Council Tax Benefit and average weekly amounts of eligible Council Tax by Region (GOR), August 2004

Source: DWP

Region	Average weekly CTB			Eligible weekly CTB		
	Main CTB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Main CTB recipients	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)
Great Britain	13.04	13.74	11.36	14.77	14.00	14.91
England	13.31	14.01	11.61	14.57	14.30	15.21
North East	12.38	13.11	10.78	13.66	13.31	14.42
North West	12.52	13.15	10.87	13.68	13.40	14.39
Yorks and the	11.76	12.36	10.27	12.94	12.65	13.65
East Midlands	12.65	13.34	11.06	13.84	13.58	14.45
West Midlands	12.60	13.18	11.12	13.71	13.45	14.37
East	13.94	14.73	12.26	15.27	14.97	15.92
London	15.35	15.99	13.42	16.63	16.43	17.23
South East	14.15	15.05	12.35	15.63	15.31	16.26
South West	13.35	14.16	11.60	14.69	14.37	15.40
Wales	10.59	11.10	9.09	11.40	11.26	11.83
Scotland	12.24	13.02	10.57	13.47	13.22	14.02

Borough Analysis

Tables 8 and 9 show Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit recipients by London Borough. The rates (percentage of total households) are presented in Maps 1 and 2.

The London Borough of Hackney has the highest rate of Housing Benefit claimants, not only in London but also in the whole of Great Britain (see Table 10) – with 38.0 per cent. This is followed closely by Tower Hamlets with 37.1 per cent – the second highest in the country. There are a further four boroughs with rates over 30 per cent, all of them in Inner London. The boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames have the lowest rates in London. Two thirds of all the London boroughs have rates above the Great Britain average and there are nine boroughs with rates that rank amongst the 20 highest in the country. Only two Inner London boroughs (Wandsworth and Kensington & Chelsea) have rates below 20 per cent. The lowest rate in the whole country (apart from the Isles of Scilly) is for Wokingham in the South East with only 4.9 per cent.

The number and percentage of Local Authority and non-Local authority tenants receiving Housing Benefit differs for individual boroughs. The two groups are equally split in Hackney, whereas in Southwark 70 per cent of the claiming households are Local Authority tenants. In Bromley all those receiving Housing Benefit are non-Local Authority tenants.

In terms of Council Tax Benefit recipients, Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of households claiming with 37.4 per cent – this is the 6th highest rate in the country, closely followed by Hackney with the 7th highest in the country. Glasgow has the highest rate with 40.5 per cent (see Table 11). Newham and Islington also have rates that rank amongst the highest in the country. If the City of London rates are discounted then Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames again have the lowest rates in London.

Half the London boroughs have a rate above the average for Great Britain.

Like London as a whole, roughly three quarters of households in London boroughs claiming Council Tax Benefit is paid as in receipt of Income Support, MIG or Jobseekers Allowance (IB). This percentage can go up to over 82 per cent in Westminster or down to 66 per cent in Richmond upon Thames.

Table 8 Housing Benefit recipients: by London borough and by Tenure, paid as in receipt of/not in receipt of IS/MIG/JSA(IB), thousands, August 2004

Source: DWP

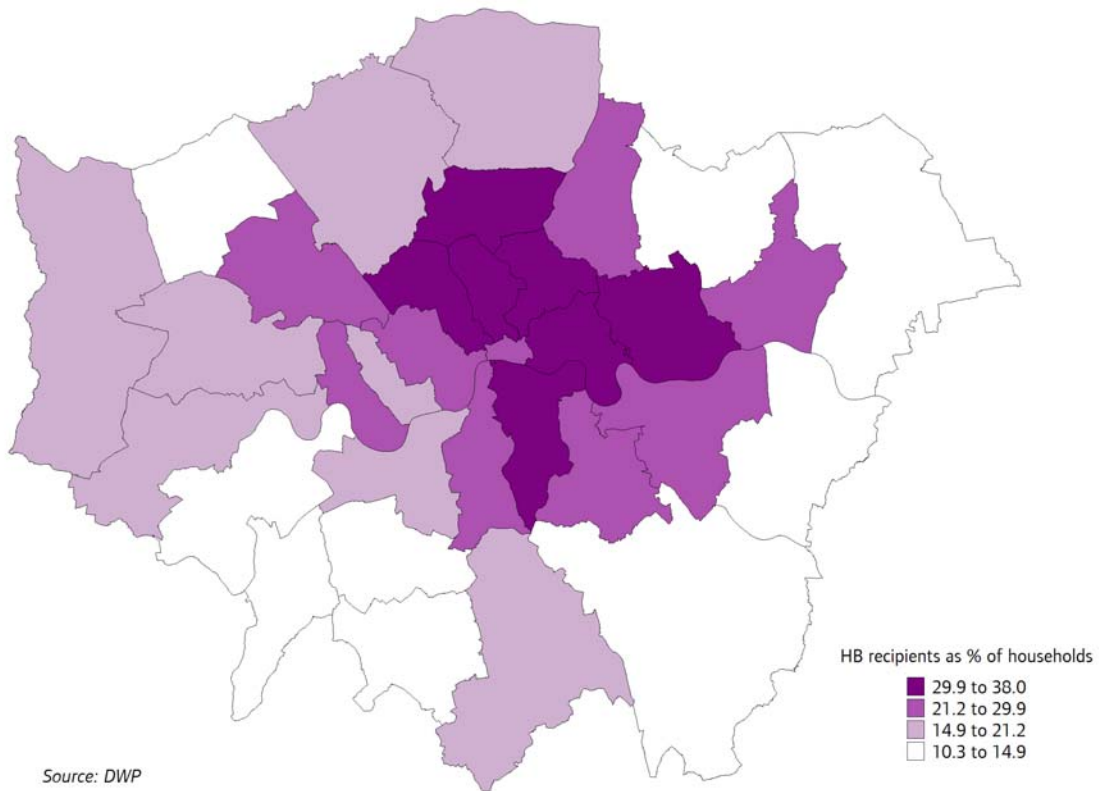
London Borough	All HB recipients	All HB recipients as % of all households (2001 Census)	Rent Rebate: LA tenants	Rent Allowance: Non LA tenants	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)
City of London	1.1	28.6	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.4
Barking and Dagenham	16.9	25.6	12.9	3.9	12.8	4.0
Barnet	20.0	15.3	8.0	12.0	14.8	5.1
Bexley	10.8	11.8	0.3	10.5	7.6	3.2
Brent	26.4	23.8	7.0	19.4	19.3	7.0
Bromley	14.5	11.3	0.0	14.5	10.5	4.0
Camden	27.8	29.9	17.4	10.4	21.0	6.8
Croydon	23.6	17.0	10.7	13.0	16.7	6.9
Ealing	22.3	17.6	10.9	11.4	17.0	5.3
Enfield	20.6	18.1	10.1	10.5	15.7	4.9
Greenwich	24.3	26.1	15.7	8.6	18.2	6.1
Hackney	34.2	38.0	16.4	17.8	26.2	8.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	19.4	24.0	9.1	10.3	14.4	5.0
Haringey	28.9	30.1	14.1	14.9	21.9	7.0
Harrow	11.5	13.6	3.8	7.7	8.2	3.2
Havering	10.5	11.3	7.1	3.4	7.4	3.1
Hillingdon	14.9	14.9	8.8	6.1	10.5	4.4
Hounslow	15.9	18.1	9.1	6.8	11.6	4.3
Islington	29.2	35.7	19.2	10.0	22.6	6.7
Kensington and Chelsea	15.6	18.8	5.3	10.3	11.8	3.8
Kingston upon Thames	6.8	10.8	3.8	3.0	4.4	2.4
Lambeth	34.8	27.2	20.4	14.4	26.3	8.6
Lewisham	28.5	25.5	16.6	11.9	21.3	7.2
Merton	9.8	12.0	4.4	5.5	6.9	2.9
Newham	32.4	34.4	16.2	16.2	24.3	8.1
Redbridge	12.8	13.3	5.3	7.5	9.4	3.3
Richmond upon Thames	8.0	10.3	0.4	7.6	5.3	2.7
Southwark	35.5	31.1	24.6	10.9	26.7	8.7
Sutton	9.0	11.7	4.8	4.2	6.1	2.9
Tower Hamlets	31.2	37.1	17.9	13.3	24.0	7.2
Waltham Forest	20.3	21.6	8.7	11.6	15.4	5.0
Wandsworth	22.4	18.7	11.6	10.8	15.9	6.5
Westminster	21.0	23.4	9.1	11.9	16.2	4.8
Greater London	661.0	27.2	330.5	330.5	491.5	169.5

Table 9 Council Tax Benefit recipients by London borough and by Tenure, paid as in receipt of/not in receipt of IS/MIG/JSA(IB), thousands, August 2004

Source: DWP

London Borough	All CTB recipients	All CTB recipients as % of all households (2001 Census)	Paid as in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)	Not in receipt of IS, MIG or JSA(IB)
City of London	0.4	10.1	0.3	0.1
Barking and Dagenham	19.9	30.2	15.0	4.9
Barnet	23.2	17.8	17.5	5.7
Bexley	13.8	15.2	9.7	4.1
Brent	26.4	23.8	19.5	7.0
Bromley	16.8	13.1	12.7	4.2
Camden	24.7	26.6	18.7	6.0
Croydon	26.1	18.8	18.7	7.4
Ealing	23.9	18.8	18.2	5.6
Enfield	26.5	23.2	20.3	6.2
Greenwich	25.6	27.5	19.3	6.3
Hackney	32.4	36.0	25.2	7.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	18.1	22.4	13.5	4.6
Haringey	28.9	30.1	21.7	7.1
Harrow	13.7	16.3	10.0	3.7
Havering	16.1	17.3	10.9	5.2
Hillingdon	17.5	17.5	12.2	5.3
Hounslow	18.1	20.6	13.2	4.9
Islington	27.9	34.0	21.5	6.4
Kensington and Chelsea	13.6	16.4	10.7	2.9
Kingston upon Thames	7.5	12.0	5.0	2.6
Lambeth	31.9	24.9	24.8	7.1
Lewisham	28.3	25.3	21.2	7.1
Merton	11.7	14.2	8.2	3.5
Newham	32.8	34.9	25.0	7.8
Redbridge	17.8	18.5	13.0	4.7
Richmond upon Thames	9.1	11.7	6.0	3.1
Southwark	35.5	31.1	27.3	8.1
Sutton	10.5	13.7	7.2	3.4
Tower Hamlets	31.4	37.4	24.7	6.7
Waltham Forest	22.7	24.2	17.3	5.4
Wandsworth	20.8	17.4	16.0	4.8
Westminster	16.8	18.6	13.9	2.9
Greater London	690.6	22.1	518.4	172.2

Map 1 Percentage of households receiving Housing Benefit by London borough, August 2004



Map 2 Percentage of all households receiving Council Tax Benefit by London borough, August 2004

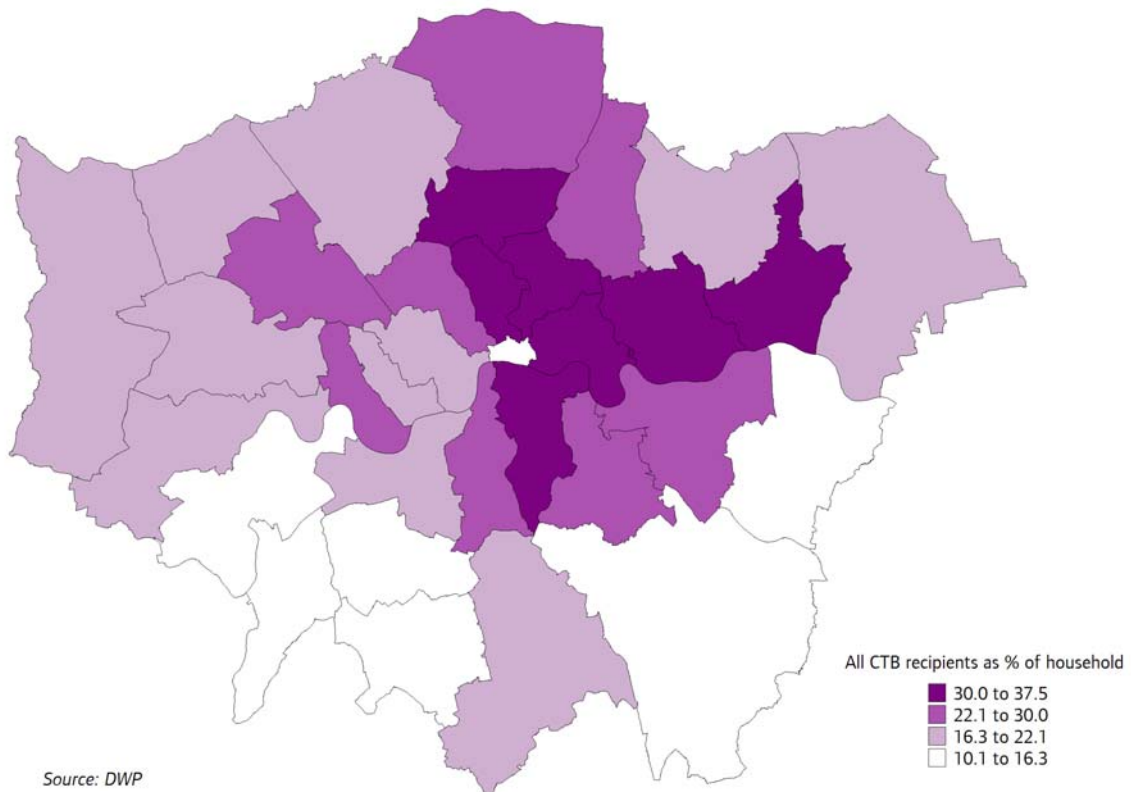


Table 10 Housing Benefit recipients: Local Authority's with highest rates, 2004

Rank	Region	Local Authority/UA	All HB recipients as % of LA Households (2001 Census)
1	LONDON	Hackney	38.0
2	LONDON	Tower Hamlets	37.1
3	NORTH WEST	Manchester	36.0
4	LONDON	Islington	35.7
5	SCOTLAND	Glasgow City	35.5
6	LONDON	Newham	34.4
7	NORTH WEST	Liverpool	32.7
8	LONDON	Southwark	31.1
9	YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	Kingston upon Hull, City of	30.4
10	LONDON	Haringey	30.1
11	LONDON	Camden	29.9
12	NORTH WEST	Knowsley	29.0
13	LONDON	City of London	28.6
14	NORTH EAST	Middlesbrough	28.4
15	SCOTLAND	West Dunbartonshire	28.4
16	SCOTLAND	Dundee City	27.6
17	LONDON	Lambeth	27.2
18	NORTH WEST	Sefton	27.2
19	EAST MIDLANDS	Nottingham	26.6
20	NORTH EAST	South Tyneside	26.5

Table 11 Council Tax Benefit recipients: Local Authority's with highest rates, 2004

Rank	Region	Local Authority/UA	All CTB recipients as % of LA Households (2001 Census)
1	SCOTLAND	Glasgow City	40.5
2	NORTH WEST	Knowsley	39.0
3	NORTH WEST	Liverpool	38.7
4	NORTH WEST	Sefton	38.1
5	NORTH WEST	Manchester	37.4
6	LONDON	Tower Hamlets	37.4
7	LONDON	Hackney	36.0
8	NORTH EAST	Hartlepool	35.3
9	NORTH EAST	Middlesbrough	34.9
10	LONDON	Newham	34.9
11	SCOTLAND	West Dunbartonshire	34.5
12	LONDON	Islington	34.0
13	YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	Kingston upon Hull, City of	33.9
14	WEST MIDLANDS	Sandwell	33.1
15	NORTH EAST	South Tyneside	32.8
16	WALES	Blaenau Gwent	32.6
17	NORTH EAST	Easington	31.9
18	NORTH EAST	Wear Valley	31.7
19	WEST MIDLANDS	Wolverhampton	31.5
20	SCOTLAND	Dundee City	31.2

Data Collection and Processing

Data on Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) claims are collected on a quarterly aggregate basis and also an annual 1 per cent sample basis:

Quarterly aggregate count.

Two statistical returns (one for claims paid as in receipt of Income Support/MIG/Jobseekers Allowance (IB) and one for where they are not) are requested from each Local Authority relating to the second Thursday of May, August, November and February. These include totals of HB and CTB claims, average weekly amounts and a split of HB claims by tenure type.

The figures provided are compared with previous quarters and any substantial changes are investigated. For Local Authorities that do not respond, estimates are made by "rating" past data according to regional trends.

Annual 1 per cent sample.

Each year (at the end of May until 1997 and the second Thursday in May from 1998), an approximate 1 per cent sample of HB and/or CTB claims is selected and Local Authorities are requested to provide detailed information on them. This basically includes all the information required to calculate the amount of benefit. Where claims are paid as in receipt of IS or JSA(IB) is also being paid, the sample is based on National Insurance number. Where IS/JSA(IB) is not being paid, the sample is based on claimants' date of birth.

The information provided by the Local Authorities is rigorously checked for transcription or other errors by examining its internal consistency (to ensure, for example, that the amount of HB is not greater than the eligible rent). Some cases are then referred back to the Local Authorities for further information. Once the data have been corrected, each sample case is given a "weight". This weight is calculated by comparing the number of sample cases with the aggregate totals from the quarterly enquiry - thus taking account of the Local Authorities that do not respond. For cases where IS/JSA(IB) is also paid, further information from the IS/JSA(IB) statistical enquiries is added to the data set.

Household figures

Analysis within this publication now shows the number of HB or CTB claimants as a percentage of the number of households in Great Britain. This reflects the payment of HB or CTB to individuals on behalf of themselves, their partners and their dependants, if they have any. Household figures are based on mid year (2001) estimates from National Statistics.

New Tax Credits

Figures in this Briefing are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. The main changes are:

- Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits are abolished for new claims to State Pension, Bereavement Benefit, Incapacity Benefit and Carer's Allowance from April 2003.
- CTC will replace the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)). This will happen from April 2004 onwards.

Dates when there may be particular changes in the figures are:

- April 2003, when Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits are abolished for new claims.
- October 2003, when it is planned that families on Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) with children will have child elements migrated to CTC.
- Financial year 2004/05, when families on Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will have child elements migrated to CTC. A small number of IS/ JSA(IB) recipients will no longer be eligible once CTC is in payment. This is because CTC payments will raise total income above the IS/JSA(IB) threshold, or other income exceeds the threshold once child allowances are removed.

Regular Briefings from the GLA Data Management and Analysis Group

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DMAG 2005/5	Indices of Deprivation 2004: Ward analysis	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2005/6	London – The World in a City	Marian Mackintosh
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DMAG 2005/11	Demography Team Workplan 2005-06	John Hollis
DMAG 2005/12	Ethnic Diversity Indices	Baljit Bains
DMAG 2005/13	London Borough and Sub-Regional Demographic Profiles (2003)	Georgia Hay
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