

# Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

## General Information Bulletin

Department for Work and Pensions, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/>

**HB/CTB G11/2009**

**23 June 2009**

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| <b>Contact</b>         | Queries about the <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>technical content of this bulletin</b>, contact details are given at the end of each article</li><li>• <b>distribution of this bulletin</b>, contact Corporate Document Services Ltd Orderline<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Email: <a href="mailto:orderline@cds.co.uk">orderline@cds.co.uk</a></li></ul></li><li>• <b>bulletin in general</b>, contact Kath Murphy<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Email: <a href="mailto:Kath.Murphy@dwp.gsi.gov.uk">Kath.Murphy@dwp.gsi.gov.uk</a></li></ul></li></ul> |
| <b>Who should read</b> | All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff  |
| <b>Action</b>          | For information   |

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## Supply of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- 1 We have received requests for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB) expenditure and subsidy claimed information on a local authority (LA) basis. Publication of this information is not restricted under the Freedom of Information Act and therefore has been provided.
- 2 The information provided is an extract from the Department's database and includes each authority's name and the amounts entered in each cell of the final subsidy claim form.
- 3 No copies of the subsidy claim forms, the auditors' reports on subsidy claims, or any copies of communications between the Department and any authority have been provided.
- 4 As the information requested is not subject to an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we will treat any future requests for the same information in the same way.
- 5 If you require any further information about this item please contact [Dave.Marley@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Dave.Marley@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## 'Take Up the Challenge' – tackling child poverty

- 6 Benefits and tax credits are essential to tackling poverty. They provide financial support to make sure that work pays and to help families who cannot work escape poverty. There are an estimated 400,000 children living in poverty who might not be if their families claimed all the benefits and tax credits to which they are entitled. At a time of economic uncertainty, and with new requirements for local partners in the Child Poverty Bill, it is ever more vital that all services play a role in helping vulnerable families to take up all of their entitlements.
- 7 General Information Bulletin G1/2009 contained details of the Take Up Taskforce, who were asking for evidence of ways LAs and their partners can help to tackle child poverty by supporting parents to take up their entitlements to tax credits and benefits.
- 8 The Taskforce has now published its findings. 'Take Up the Challenge' sets out actions that LAs and partners can take now to tackle child poverty by maximising families' incomes, illustrated by case studies of successful local approaches. The report can be viewed and downloaded at [www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/childpoverty](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/childpoverty).

- 9 The report is based on eight principles of effective service delivery that should be adopted by local services in order to increase take up. It has a strong focus on integrating take up work into mainstream processes, promoting in-work benefits, working in partnership, and the role that practitioners in a range of professions can play to help parents to access tax credits and benefits in order to escape poverty.
- 10 Following the Taskforce's recommendations a cross-Government delivery group will work to deliver a more customer centred and co-ordinated approach to the delivery of benefits and tax credits, and to produce materials to support local services to take the action in the report. These will be available later in the year.
- 11 For further information about this item please  
email: [Sally.knock@childpovertyunit.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.knock@childpovertyunit.gsi.gov.uk), or  
telephone: 020 7340 7622

## Statutory Instruments

- 12 The following Statutory Instrument (SI) has now been laid
- 2009 No.1314 (C.72), The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2009, coming into force from 1 June 2009
- 13 Copies of SIs can now be downloaded from DWP's own website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/docs/lawvols/bluevol/> and the website of the Office of Publication Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm>

## What's new on the web

- 14 The following items can be found on the website link shown

| Document Type           | Subject  | Link  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| HB/CTB Bulletin G9/2009 | Clarification of HB/CTB Circular A10/2009, paragraph 11<br><br>What's new on the web<br><br>HB/CTB Circulars issued this month | <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/bulletins/2009/g9-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/bulletins/2009/g9-2009.pdf</a> |

| <b>Document Type</b>              | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Link</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HB/CTB Bulletin G10/2009          | Electronic Transfer of HB/CTB Claim Data to LAs Project (e-Transfer Project) National Rollout<br><br>Single Housing Benefit Extract Right Time Performance Information and Caseload Data<br><br>Statutory Instruments                         | <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/bulletins/2009/g10-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/bulletins/2009/g10-2009.pdf</a>   |
| HB/CTB Circular A13/2009          | 2009/10 Single HB Extract – Guidance for Local Authorities (LAs)<br><br>Updated guidance on completion of the 2009/10 Single HB Extract fields for the derivation of the performance data for the 'Right Time' and 'Right Benefit' indicators | <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2009/a13-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2009/a13-2009.pdf</a>   |
| HB/CTB Circular S4/2009 (revised) | Details of further additional specific grant for administration costs for 2009/10   | <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2009/s4-2009-rev.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2009/s4-2009-rev.pdf</a>                                     |
| HB Direct Issue 90 June 2009      | Newsletter  | <a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/hb-direct-newsletter/2009/issue-90-june-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/hb-direct-newsletter/2009/issue-90-june-2009.pdf</a> |

## **HB/CTB Circulars issued this month**

15 The following HB/CTB Circulars have been issued this month

HB/CTB Circular S4/2009 (revised)