

# 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 G15/2009**

**7 September 2009**

<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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## Release of Right Time Indicator (RTI) performance data – an update

- 1 Paragraphs 20 to 27 of HB/CTB G9/2009 issued on 7 May 2009 explained that DWP would not release RTI performance data for the first 3 quarters of the year but expected to release data for Quarter 4 (Q4) 2008/09 later in the year.
- 2 Since March 2009 DWP analysts have been assessing and quality assuring data provided by the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) in respect of RTI. This work included extensive contact with individual local authorities (LAs) and we are grateful for their input; the work highlighted quality issues for a significant number of LAs. As a result, DWP has decided not to release Q4 2008/09 RTI performance data as originally intended.
- 3 We are continuing to review the quality of RTI data for 2009/10, working closely with software providers. They have indicated that many of the data issues affecting RTI in 2008/09 should have been resolved by the implementation of software updates this year. Consequently we plan to contact LAs later in the year to ask them to participate in quality assurance work along the lines of the exercises carried out earlier this year.
- 4 We are sorry that RTI performance data for 2008/09 cannot be released but we need to ensure that the performance information made available in respect of this indicator meets the criteria set by the UK Statistics Authority for the production of Official Statistics.
- 5 None of this is intended to prevent individual authorities from reporting on their own performance in 2008/09, either against the RTI or any local measure they may have adopted in respect of HB and CTB processing.
- 6 Please direct any enquiries or requests for further information to [Performance-Framework@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Performance-Framework@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Deletion of HB/CTB Circulars A17/2006 and A20/2006

- 7 The recently issued *HB/CTB Bulletin G14/2009* lists the HB/CTB circulars which are still current. Circulars A17/2006 and A20/2006 should have been removed from that list as they are now obsolete.
- 8 *HB/CTB A17/2006* was issued to promote the national scans like the no change to earnings and tax credits; these scans have now become part of the Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) routine timetabled issues therefore this circular should now be deleted.

- 9 *HB/CTB A20/2006* dealt with the security performance measures that were introduced in April 2007 and have been replaced by the Performance Framework which came in to existence in April 2008, therefore this circular should be deleted.

## Queries

- 10 Please direct any enquiries to [fraud-error-policy@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fraud-error-policy@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Statutory Instruments

- 11 The following Statutory Instruments (SIs) have now been laid
- 2008 No.2299, The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2008, correction slip
  - 2008 No.731, The Occupational Pension Schemes (Employer Debt and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008, substitutes original
  - 2009 No.1815, The Child Support Collection and Enforcement (Deduction Orders) Amendment Regulations 2009, coming into force 3 August 2009
  - 2009 No.1851, The Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009, coming into force from 10 July 2009
  - 2009 No.1888, The Pensions Regulator (Delegation of Powers) Regulations 2009, coming into force 13 November 2009
  - 2009 No.1906, The Occupational Pension Schemes (Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009) Regulations 2009, coming into force 1 September 2009
  - 2009 No.1907, The Occupational Pension Schemes (Public Service Pension Schemes) Regulations 2009, coming into force 1 September 2009
  - 2009 No.2162, The Welfare Reform Act (Relevant Enactment) Order 2009, coming into force 1 September 2009
  - 2009 No.2206, The Social Security (State Pension and National Insurance Credits) Regulations 2009, coming into force from 6 April 2010
- 12 Copies of SIs can now be downloaded from DWP's own website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/law-volumes/the-law-relating-to-social-security/> and the website of the Office of Publication Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm>

## What's new on the web

13 The following items can be found on the website link shown

Document Type	Subject	Link
HB/CTB Bulletin G13/2009	<p>HB/CTB cases awaiting decision by the Upper Tribunal</p> <p>E-Transfer of HB and CTB claim data - Implementation of Phase 2</p> <p>Statutory Instruments</p> <p>What's new on the web</p> <p>HB/CTB Circulars issued this month</p> <p>Other publications issued this month</p>	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/g13-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/g13-2009.pdf</a>
HB/CTB Circular A15/2009	HB overpayments and excess CTB issues	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a15-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a15-2009.pdf</a>
HB/CTB Circular A16/2009	Guidance on the effect of HB/CTB of the equalisation and extension of the State Pension Age (SI2009/1488)	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a16-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a16-2009.pdf</a>
HB/CTB Circular A17/2009	<p>Total disregard of Child Benefit income in HB/CTB and technical amendments to reflect The Childcare Act 2006.</p> <p>Amendment to the HB and CTB capital thresholds for customers who have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit.</p>	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a17-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a17-2009.pdf</a>
HB Direct issue 92 August 2009	Newsletter	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/issue-92-august-2009.pdf">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/issue-92-august-2009.pdf</a>

## **HB/CTB Circulars issued recently**

- 14 The following HB/CTB Circulars have been issued recently
- HB/CTB Circular A15/2009
  - HB/CTB Circular A16/2009
  - HB/CTB Circular A17/2009

## **Other publications issued recently**

- 15 The following publication has been issued recently
- HB/CTB Guidance Manual – Amendment 19