

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

Urgent Bulletin

Department for Work and Pensions
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HB/CTB U9/2006

4 April 2006

Contact	Housing Benefit Data Services Jan.ripley@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
Who should read	All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff and software suppliers
Action	Urgent – to note and action
Subject	1 Stats 116/123 MIS: Ending the requirement to return 2 Introduction of revised 2006-07 HBSDIAD Scan specification

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Stats 116/123: Ending the Local Authority's requirement to return the annual 1% sample

- 1 Following a review of the progress made so far in the delivery of the new HBSD/IAD 100% data scan, and listening to the feedback we have been receiving from Local Authorities (LAs) and software houses, we are very pleased to be able to announce that we have dropped the requirement to return the annual 1% sample data (Stats 116/123), including that sample due to be collected on the 11th May 2006. This will apply to all LAs.
- 2 The annual 1% sample data is used by analysts to provide a detailed picture of the benefit recipient characteristics. However, it is recognised that LAs find this data very difficult to collect and it is equally resource intensive for the department to process. The progress made so far by LAs and their software providers in returning the HBSD/IAD scan has given us confidence that the resources used on these returns would be better focused on improving the quality and quantity of the HBSD/IAD scan.

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- 3 LAs will still be required to return the remaining statistical returns to us, including the quarterly caseload counts, Stats 121 and Stats 122. However, later this summer we will be announcing which LAs are also able to stop sending in these forms, based on an assessment of the quality and regularity of their HBSD/IAD scan returns.
- 4 We hope this announcement will reinforce to you our commitment to the future collection of all HB/CTB administrative data through the HBSD/IAD scan, and reducing the burden placed on LAs of returning statistical information to the department.

Introduction of revised 2006-07 HBSDIAD Scan specification

- 5 A review of the HBSDIAD Scan specification, and consultation with Software Suppliers and Local Authority Associations (LAA's), has now been completed. A revised specification that fully replicates Stats 116, 123, 121 and 122, and includes the addition of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) requirements, is attached as an excel document. Double click on the attached icon to access the information. Alternatively, the specification is available on our website at www.knowledgenetwork.gov.uk/hbds



HBSD_IAD_scan_
March 06 .xls

- 6 You should use this version of the specification from the July extraction of the scan, ie data extracted between 30 June and 27 July 2006.

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