

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-17-0303 - Housing Benefits
Date: 14 March 2017 15:22:16
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 20 February 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

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?

There are 12 households affected by the cap receiving 50p per week in housing benefit

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?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **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** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

3. How many of the households (from question 1) were affected by the £26,000 cap?

8 of the households from question 1 were affected by the previous £26,000 cap

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?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **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** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

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?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **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** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

Please refer to DWP regarding implication of moving to Universal Credit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

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?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **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** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

Please refer to DWP regarding implication of moving to Universal Credit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

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?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **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** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

In relation to questions 2, 4 and 7, there is no legislative reason or obligation for ACC to record, hold or report on the information. The question is asking for details that are of no relevance to the administration of Housing Benefit and is a subset of information that is not held on our database. We understand that you are asking how many households would be affected if the benefit cap could be applied to other benefits. However, this is not how the benefit cap works. The Benefit Cap sets a limit on the amount of benefit that working age people can get. Most (but not all) social security benefits count towards the cap. For full details of which benefits count towards the cap, see the Government's website: www.gov.uk/benefit-cap

The Benefit Cap is calculated taking into account other benefits. The Benefit Cap is merely implemented by reducing entitlement to housing benefit. Other types of benefit are therefore an integral part of calculating the Benefit Cap. If the Benefit Cap were to be applied to other types of benefit then this would require a legislative change. If this were the case, the other benefits being capped would not be administered by the Local Authority and as such we would be unable to provide an answer. As such we are unable to provide figures for Q2, Q4 and Q7.

The Housing Benefit System is designed to accurately assess, process and pay Housing Benefit and to conform to all statutory reporting requirements of the Department of Works and Pensions. Although business reporting tools are also able to interrogate the database to provide reports and further information for analysis, in this instance it is not possible to extract the information requested.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

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