

# **Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit**

## **Annual Summary Statistics**

**May 2001**

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**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions

Information Centre, Analytical Services Directorate



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## Introduction

This summary of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit statistics is produced annually and is supplemented by four quarterly summaries. Most of the statistics are based on information provided by the Local Authorities of Great Britain responsible for the administration of the two benefits.

**Section 1** contains a brief description of Housing and Council Tax Benefits.

**Section 2** contains key statistics and trends for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit for the most recent year and the preceding year.

**Sections 3 and 4** contain summary analyses of the main features of Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

## Conventions

Unless otherwise stated, the key statistics and analyses relate to Great Britain.

### Abbreviations and symbols used:

<b>HB</b>	Housing Benefit
<b>CTB</b>	Council Tax Benefit
<b>SAR</b>	Second Adult Rebate
<b>IS</b>	Income Support
<b>JSA (IB)</b>	Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)
<b>RSL</b>	Registered Social Landlord (formerly Housing Association (HA) tenants)
<b>LRR</b>	Local Reference Rent
<b>SRR</b>	Single Room Rent
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>1997/98</b>	The financial year April 1997 to April 1998 (for example)
<b>MIG</b>	Minimum income guarantee, introduced in April 1999 increasing the amount payable to aged 60 or over
..	Not available
.	Not applicable
-	Nil or Negligible

### Rounding of figures

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand, percentages to the nearest whole number and amounts of money to the nearest ten pence (unless otherwise stated). This means that component parts may not sum to totals.

### Statistical units

Recipients are used throughout this summary and refer to benefit units - which may consist of a single person or a couple.

### Regions

The regions used in this summary are Government Office Regions. A definition of these can be found at Appendix B. Regional analyses prior to 1998 publications were by Standard Statistical Region and therefore comparisons with 1998 onwards should not be made as many regions have changed.

### Client Group

Where the tables and graphs use client group splits, cases have been apportioned into the first appropriate client group from left to right. For couples, those in the 'All aged 60 or over' group are where the claimant or partner is aged 60 or over, therefore those in the 'All aged under 60' group are where both the claimant and partner are aged under 60.

## Sampling variability

Analyses in this summary are taken from a 1% sample of recipients (see below for details). Although these figures have been rounded, they are nevertheless subject to some sampling error.

## Data collection and processing

Data on Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) claims is collected on a **quarterly aggregate** basis and also an **annual 1% sample** basis:

### Quarterly aggregate count.

Two statistical returns (one for claims paid as in receipt of Income Support (IS)/Jobseekers Allowance (income based) (JSA (IB)) is also paid and one for where it is not) are requested from each Local Authority relating to the second Thursday of February, May, August, and November. These include totals of HB and CTB claims, average amounts and a split of the claims by tenancy 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 "up-rating" past data according to any regional trends.

Results are usually available around four and a half months after the enquiry date in "Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Summary Statistics" (ISSN 1463-8266).

### Annual 1% sample.

Each year (at the end of May until 1997 and the second Thursday in May from 1998), an approximate 1% 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.

## Contact point:

The statistics in this summary represent a subset of those available. For further information or analyses see *Work and Pension Statistics 2001* (an HMSO publication - ISBN 1 85197 934 4), or contact:

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*1. Note that the figures in this summary supersede those contained in Work and Pension Statistics 2001 as they take into account the receipt of further information from Local Authorities.*

# 1. A brief description of the benefits

The notes below describe the main features of each benefit. They do not cover all the conditions for entitlement to benefit.

## Housing Benefit

*(reformed scheme introduced April 1988)*

Housing Benefit is administered by Local Authorities. People are eligible only if they are liable to pay rent (or are treated as if they were so liable) 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** and the **applicable amount**. Also, people who are liable to pay rent but who have capital in excess of £16,000 are not entitled to Housing Benefit.

## Rent Rebate

Rent Rebate is the name given to Housing Benefit paid to Local Authority tenants.

## Rent Allowance

Rent Allowance is the name given to Housing Benefit paid to Private tenants (including Registered Social Landlord tenants).

## Registered Social Landlord

A society, body of trustees or company established for the purpose of providing housing accommodation on a non-profit-making basis. This is now the standard term for all Housing Associations (and for the purpose of this publication, all references to Housing Associations have been amended to Registered Social Landlord).

## Regulated Tenancy

Tenancies created prior to January 1989 where either the tenant or the landlord may apply to the rent officer for registration of a fair rent.

## Deregulated Tenancy

Tenancies created after January 1989 where the rent (or assured) is a market tenancy rent freely negotiated by landlord and tenant.

## Eligible rent

Eligible rent is the amount of a tenant's rental liability that 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, mesne profits and payments for compulsory housing-related services all count for Housing Benefit. Deductions are made for service charges in the rent which relate to personal needs, such as the supply of fuel or meals. HB may also be reduced if the amount of rent payable is unreasonably high, if the accommodation is over-large or if the claimant or their partner is a full time student.

## Local Reference Rent

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 rent**. However, where the Claim Related Rent (CRR) is more than the LRR, generally, 50% of the difference between the CRR and the LRR is met, thereby increasing the amount of eligible rent used to calculate Housing Benefit.

## Single Room Rent Scheme

On 7 October 1996, the '**Single Room Rent Scheme**' (SRR) 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 Housing Benefit.

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

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**

*(introduced April 1993)*

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) is an income-related benefit, administered by Local Authorities, 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** this 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 receiving IS/JSA (IB) can get up to 100% help, subject to any non-dependant deductions that may be appropriate. People not in receipt of Income Support/JSA(IB) have their benefit assessed in a similar way to the assessment for HB, but the maximum CTB is reduced by 20% 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 CTB.

Help is also available to people who are solely liable for the tax and who have a second adult in their household 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% 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, CTB is not payable on the same grounds as for HB (except to the same prescribed vulnerable groups).

If a person lives in a property valued in bands F, G or H, the CTB may be restricted to that for a band E property.

## 2.Key Statistics and Trends

	May 2000	May 2001	% change
<b>Housing Benefit Recipients (Total)</b>	<b>4.03 million</b>	<b>3.87 million</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
Local Authority tenants	2.29 million	2.13 million	-6.7
Private tenants (excluding Registered Social Landlord tenants)	0.81 million	0.74 million	-8.8
Registered Social Landlord tenants	0.93 million	0.99 million	7.2
Also in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)	2.63 million	2.60 million	-0.9
Not in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)	1.41million	1.27 million	-9.7
<b>Average amount of Housing Benefit</b>	<b>£48.40</b>	<b>£50.30</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Local Authority tenants	£41.10	£43.10	4.8
Private/RSL tenants	£58.00	£59.20	2.2
Also in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)	£53.50	£54.70	2.2
Not in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)	£39.00	£41.50	6.5
<b>Average eligible rent</b>	<b>£53.40</b>	<b>£55.00</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Local Authority tenants	£45.80	£47.20	3.2
Private/RSL tenants	£63.50	£64.60	1.8
Also in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)	£54.20	£55.40	2.2
Not in receipt of IS or JSA(IB)	£52.00	£54.30	4.5
<b>Council Tax Benefit Recipients(Total excluding Second Adult Rebates)</b>	<b>4.83 million</b>	<b>4.67 million</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
Number of CTB recipients with Second Adult Rebate.	34 thousand	28 thousand	-18.2
<b>Average amount of Council Tax Benefit</b>	<b>£9.40</b>	<b>£10.10</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>1999/00</b>	<b>2000/01</b>	
<b>Expenditure on Housing Benefit</b>	<b>£11.2 billion</b>	<b>£11.2 billion</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Rent Rebate	£5.4 billion	£5.4 billion	0.0
Rent Allowance	£5.8 billion	£5.8 billion	-0.1
<b>Expenditure on Council Tax Benefit</b>	<b>£2.5 billion</b>	<b>£2.6 billion</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May.

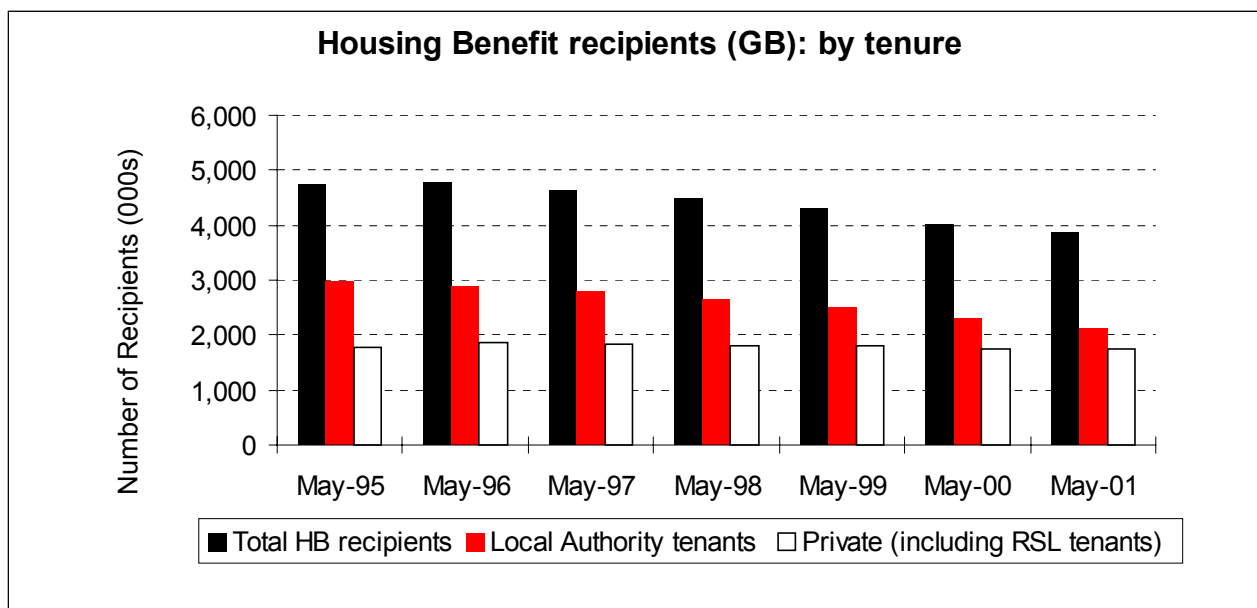
Source: Latest expenditure figures from the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions and National Assembly for Wales and Scottish Executive.

Note: These figures may differ from those in the Quarterly Summary Statistics May 2001, due to the different source data.



### 3.Housing Benefit Analysis

#### Recipients - GB



The total number of HB recipients fell to 3.87 million in May 2001. This represents a fall of about 19% since the peak in May 1996.

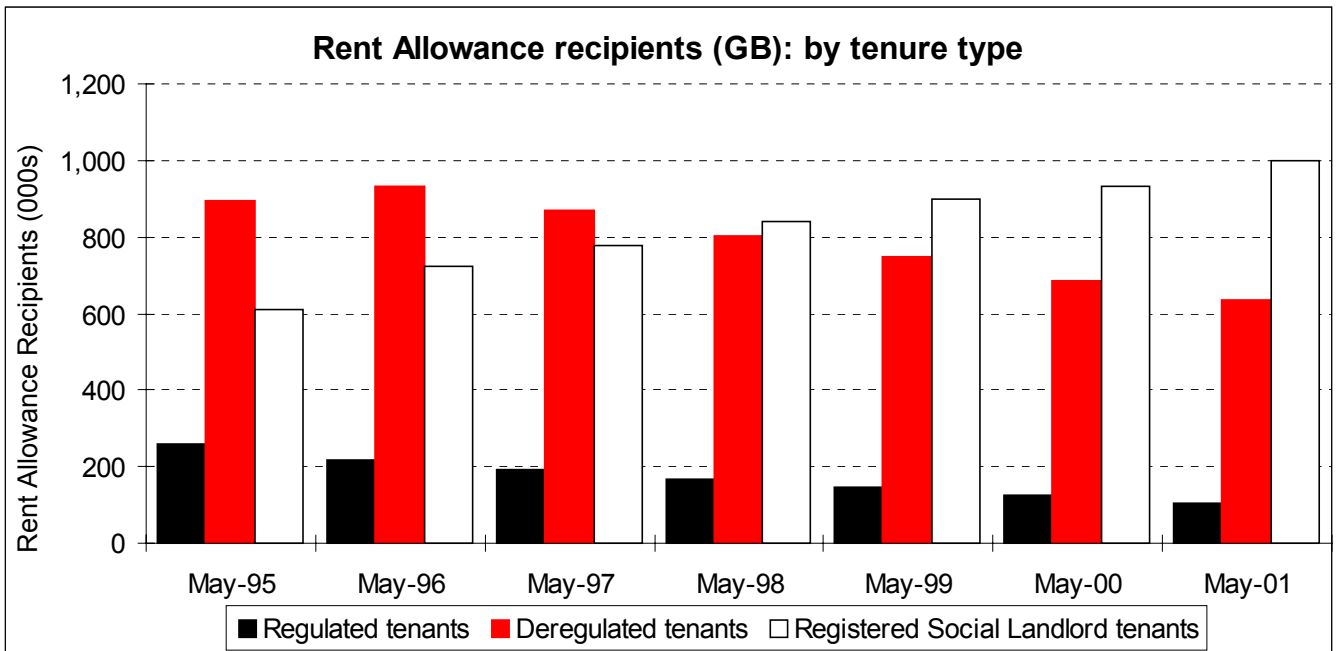
- The number of rent rebate/local authority tenants has been steadily declining for several years to stand at 2.3 million. The decline can be attributed to the continuation of Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) which is the transfer of LA tenancies to Registered Social Landlords (RSL).
- The number of Private tenants (excluding RSL tenants) receiving Rent Allowance has decreased every year since May 1995. The number of RSL tenants receiving Rent Allowance continues to increase and now represents 26% of Housing Benefit recipients.

#### 3.1 Housing Benefit Recipients: by tenure

	Total HB recipients (=100%)	Rent Rebate		Rent Allowance					
		Local Authority Tenants		Total Rent Allowance Recipients	Registered Social Landlord Tenants		Private Tenants (exc. RSL tenants)		
	000s	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
May-95	4,734	2,964	63	1,769	37	610	13	1,159	24
May-96	4,776	2,898	61	1,878	39	723	15	1,155	24
May-97	4,639	2,792	60	1,846	40	780	17	1,066	23
May-98	4,475	2,664	60	1,811	40	840	19	971	22
May-99	4,313	2,519	58	1,795	42	897	21	897	21
May-00	4,033	2,288	57	1,745	43	931	23	815	20
May-01	3,874	2,133	55	1,741	45	998	26	743	26

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the last day of May in each year until 1997 and then the second Thursday from 1998 onwards.

## Rent Allowance Recipients - GB



- The chart above shows the average number of Rent Allowance cases by regulated (exc. RSL tenants), de-regulated (exc. RSL tenants) and Registered Social Landlord tenants. "Other" cases are not shown (see note below).
- The proportion that are regulated (private exc. RSL) tenants has fallen from 15% in May 1995 to 6% in May 2001. This reflects the fact that, in the main, regulated tenancies could not be created after January 1989.
- The number of Registered Social Landlord tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit has increased from 610 thousand in May 1995 to 998 thousand in May 2001. This represents an increase of 63% (when new properties are built, within the social sector, they are almost always in the RSL sector).

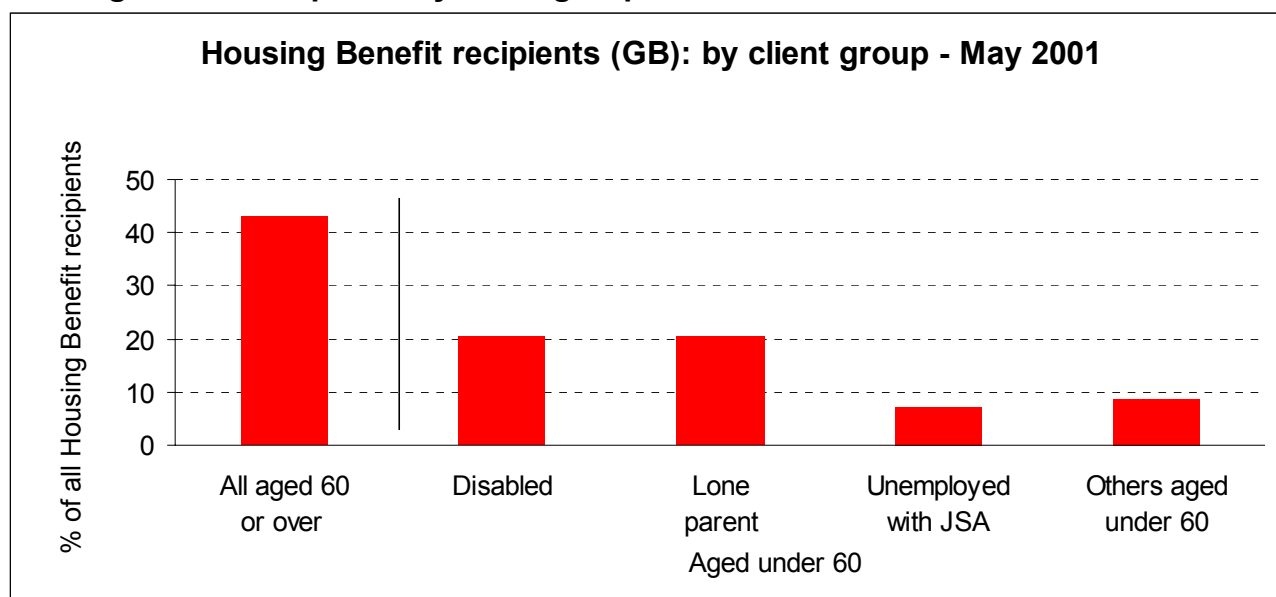
### 3.2 Rent Allowance: by tenure

	Total Rent Allowance recipients (=100%)		Private(exc. RSL) Regulated tenants		Private(exc. RSL) De-regulated tenants		Registered Social Landlord tenants		Others (see note)	
	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
May-95	1,769		257	15	893	50	610	34	9	-
May-96	1,878		217	12	930	50	723	38	7	-
May-97	1,846		194	11	868	47	780	42	4	-
May-98	1,811		166	9	803	44	840	46	2	-
May-99	1,795		144	8	748	42	897	50	5	-
May-00	1,745		124	7	687	39	931	53	3	-
May-01	1,741		106	6	635	36	998	57	2	-

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the last day of May in each year until 1997 and then the second Thursday from 1998 onwards

Note: The "Others" category includes cases that cannot be classed as Regulated, Deregulated or RSL tenancies.

## Housing Benefit recipients by client group



The above chart shows the proportion of HB recipients for selected client groups in Great Britain at May 2001. The table below shows a further split by government office region (a definition of which can be found at Appendix B). Those aged 60 or over account for approximately 43% of the total number of HB recipients and lone parents around 21%. The client group distribution differs quite markedly from region to region. Some examples are as follows:

- The percentage aged 60 or over is lowest (35%) in London and highest (50%) in East.
- The percentage that are lone parents varies from 17% in Scotland to 25% in London
- The percentage with disability premium is lowest (17%) in East and highest (26%) in Wales.

### 3.3 Housing Benefit Recipients: by GOR and client group - May 2001

Thousands

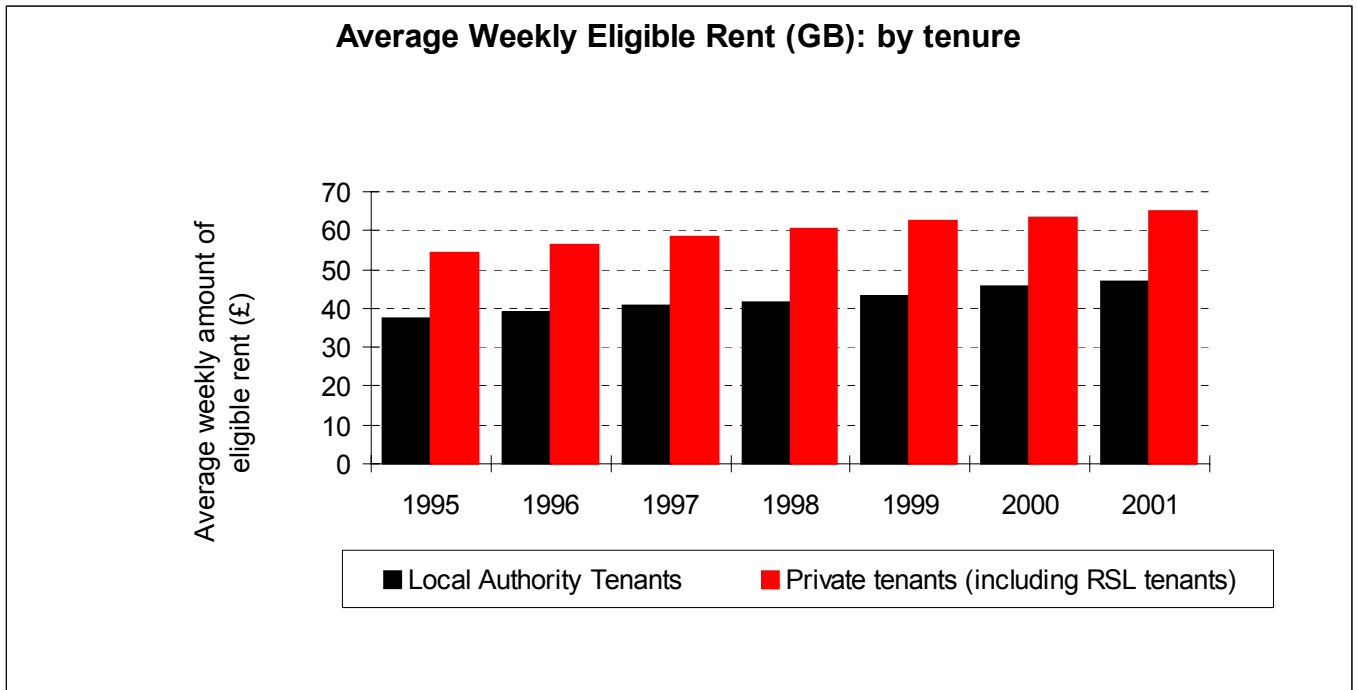
	Total HB recipients	Aged under 60					Others aged under 60	All HB recipients as % of population <sup>1</sup>
		All aged 60 or over	All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA		
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,874</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
England	3,207	1,377	1,830	626	679	237	288	8.0%
North East	245	105	140	53	45	20	21	11.9%
North West	525	212	313	131	104	32	45	9.6%
Yorks and the Humber	356	162	195	64	75	28	28	8.8%
East Midlands	236	106	130	46	48	17	19	7.0%
West Midlands	352	170	182	65	66	27	25	8.3%
East	273	135	137	45	54	17	22	6.2%
London	588	203	384	111	147	58	68	10.0%
South East	369	171	198	61	83	20	34	5.7%
South West	265	114	151	50	57	18	26	6.6%
Wales	206	83	123	54	40	14	15	8.8%
Scotland	461	203	258	108	79	34	37	11.2%

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

1. Individuals aged 16 and over.

## Eligible Rent - GB



- The chart above shows the average weekly eligible rent split by Local Authority and Private tenants (including RSL) at May each year from 1995 to 2001. The table below shows a further split into tenure type together with the percentage increase in eligible rent compared to the previous year.

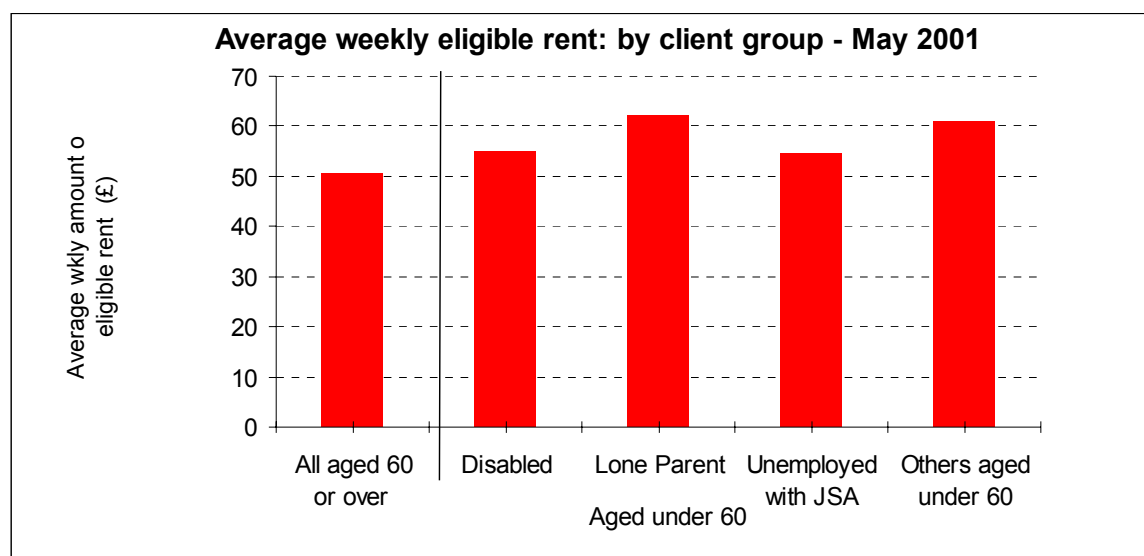
### 3.4 Average Weekly Eligible Rent (GB): by tenure

£pw

	All HB recipients		Rent Rebate		Rent Allowance			
	Average weekly eligible rent	Year on Year increase	Average weekly eligible rent	Year on Year increase	Average weekly eligible rent	Year on Year increase	Registered Social Landlord tenants eligible rent	Private tenants (exc. Registered Social Landlord) eligible rent.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	£
1995	<b>43.80</b>	8	37.50	7	54.30	7	47.60	57.90
1996	<b>46.10</b>	5	39.20	5	56.60	4	50.00	60.70
1997	<b>47.70</b>	4	40.60	3	58.40	3	53.40	62.10
1998	<b>49.20</b>	3	41.60	2	60.40	3	55.90	64.30
1999	<b>51.30</b>	4	43.20	4	62.50	3	58.00	66.80
2000	<b>53.40</b>	4	45.80	6	63.50	2	59.80	67.70
2001	<b>55.40</b>	4	47.10	3	65.20	3	61.70	69.90

Source: 1% sample taken on the last day of May in each year until 1997 and then the second Thursday from 1998 onwards

## Amount of eligible rent: by client group



- The chart above and the table below show the average weekly eligible rent split by client group and government office region at May 2001 (a definition of government office region can be found at appendix B).
- The table below shows that in May 2001 the average weekly amount of eligible rent was highest in London (£75.50) and lowest in Scotland (£43.00)
- The average weekly amount of eligible rent is highest for the Lone Parent client group (£62.20). London is the region where eligible rent for this client group is at its highest (£83.00) and Scotland is that with the lowest (£47.40).
- The client group with the lowest amount of eligible rent is those aged 60 or over (£50.40). London is the region where eligible rent for this client group is at its highest (£67.60) and Scotland is that with the lowest (£41.00).

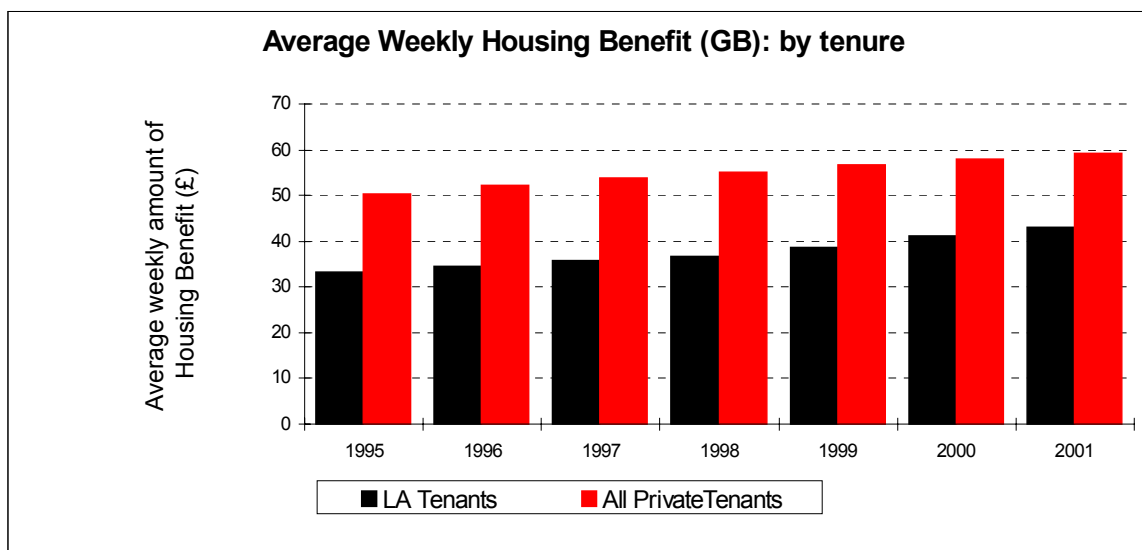
### 3.5 Average weekly amounts of eligible rent: by GOR and client group - May 2001 £pw

Total HB recipients	All aged 60 or over	Aged under 60					Others aged under 60
		All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA		
<b>Great Britain</b>	50.40	58.50	55.00	62.20	54.70	60.90	
England	52.10	61.00	57.50	64.50	56.80	63.80	
North East	44.10	47.70	47.30	49.40	45.50	47.10	
North West	47.20	54.20	54.40	55.80	50.30	52.70	
Yorks and the Humber	42.90	49.30	48.20	50.80	46.30	51.20	
East Midlands	45.90	50.30	50.00	52.10	46.60	50.00	
West Midlands	47.80	52.50	50.50	55.60	49.40	53.30	
East	53.50	60.80	56.90	66.00	59.40	57.00	
London	67.60	79.70	73.90	83.00	72.80	87.70	
South East	59.80	70.80	66.00	75.40	63.10	72.90	
South West	52.40	61.60	58.60	66.30	56.60	61.00	
Wales	46.00	50.60	49.70	53.00	47.70	49.80	
Scotland	41.00	44.50	43.20	47.40	43.50	43.50	

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

## Amount of benefit – GB



- The chart above shows the average weekly HB from May 1995 to May 2001 split by Local Authority and Private tenants. The table below shows a further split by tenure type together with the year on year percentage increase in the average amounts.

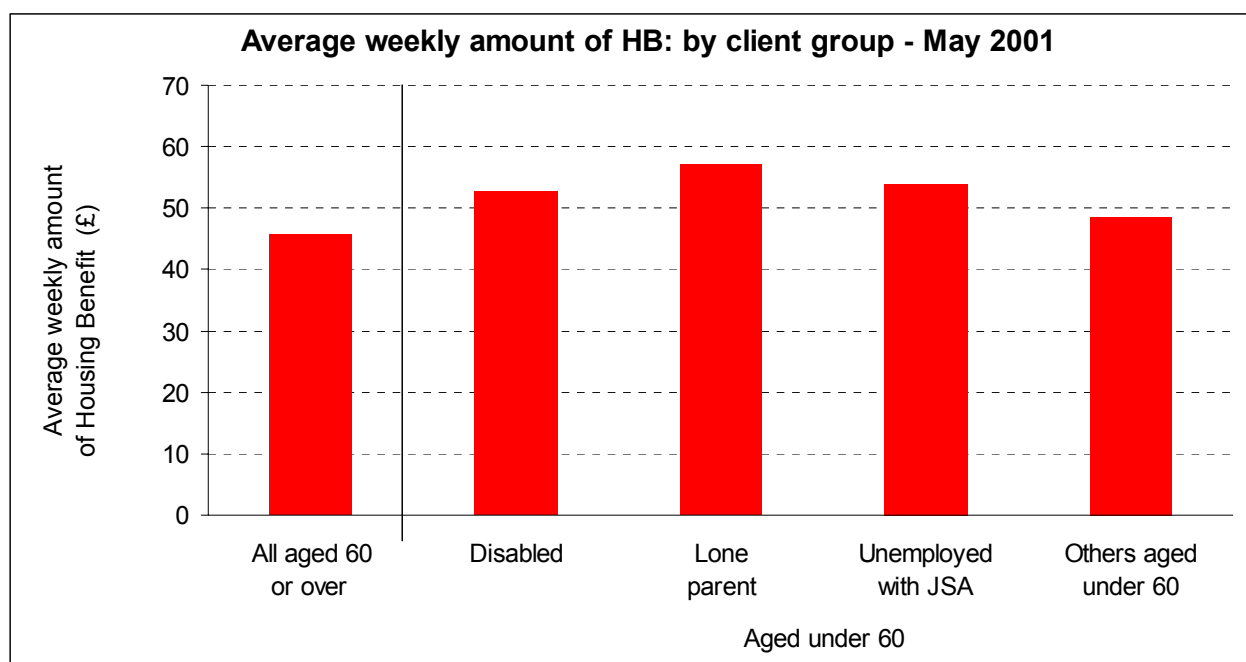
### 3.6 Average Weekly Housing Benefit (GB): by tenure

£pw

	All HB recipients		Rent Rebate		Rent Allowance			Private tenants (excl. RSL) average HB
	Average weekly Housing Benefit	Year on Year increase	Average weekly Housing Benefit	Year on Year increase	Average weekly Housing Benefit	Year on Year increase	Registered Social Landlord tenants average HB	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	£
1995	39.60	8	33.10	8	50.50	7	43.10	54.40
1996	41.60	5	34.60	4	52.40	4	45.30	56.90
1997	43.00	4	35.90	4	53.90	3	48.30	58.00
1998	44.10	2	36.60	2	55.10	2	50.10	59.30
1999	46.20	5	38.60	5	56.80	3	52.20	61.40
2000	48.40	5	41.20	7	58.00	2	54.20	62.30
2001	50.30	4	43.10	5	59.20	2	55.70	63.90

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the last day of May in each year until 1997 and then the second Thursday from 1998 onwards

## Amount of benefit: by client group



- The chart above and the table below show the average weekly HB split by client group and government office region at May 2001 (a definition of government office region can be found at appendix B).
- Average weekly HB is highest in London (£69.50) and lowest in Scotland (£39.50). Not surprisingly, this follows the same regional pattern as amounts of eligible rent.
- The Lone Parent client group has the highest amount of average weekly HB (£57.20), which is highest in London (£78.50) and lowest in Scotland (£43.20).
- The client group with the lowest amount of HB is those aged 60 or over (£45.60). London is the region where HB for this client group is at its highest (£60.30) and Scotland is that with the lowest (£37.30).

### 3.7 Average weekly amounts of Housing Benefit by GOR and by client group - May 2001

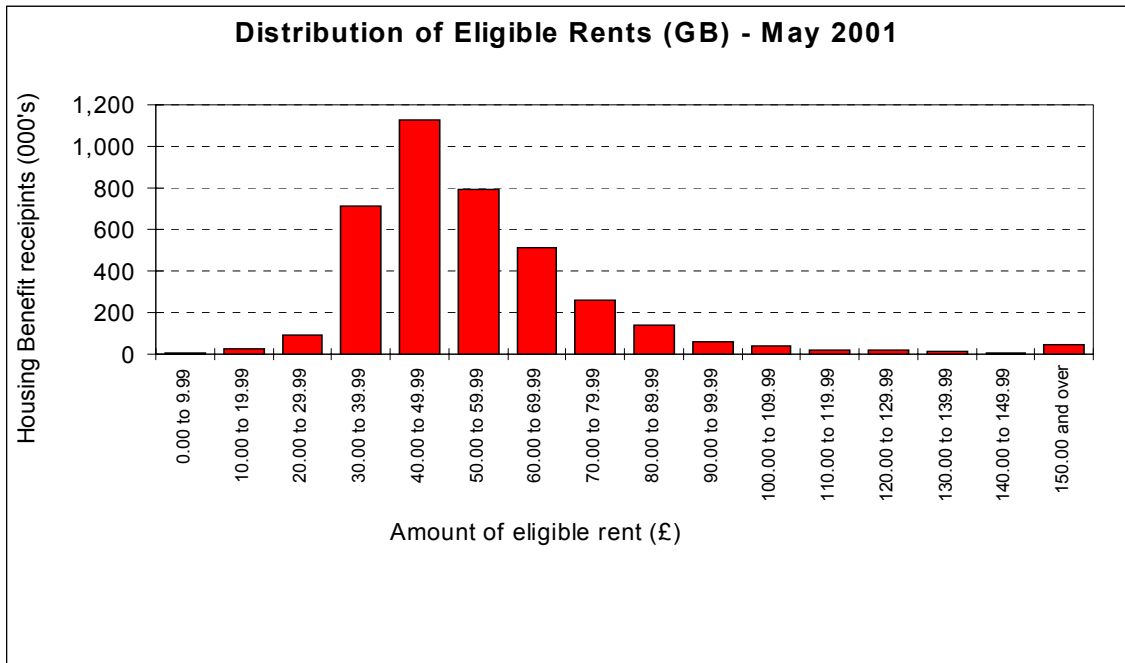
£pw

	Total HB recipients	Aged under 60					Others aged under 60
		All aged 60 or over	All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA	
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>50.30</b>	45.60	53.90	52.70	57.20	54.00	48.60
England	52.30	47.10	56.20	55.20	59.40	56.00	50.60
North East	42.50	40.00	44.40	45.30	46.10	45.00	37.90
North West	47.60	43.50	50.30	52.20	51.20	49.90	43.20
Yorks and the Humber	42.70	39.10	45.70	46.40	47.00	49.90	40.80
East Midlands	44.50	41.90	46.60	47.70	48.60	46.20	39.70
West Midlands	46.40	43.90	48.70	48.80	51.30	48.30	42.10
East	51.70	47.90	55.40	54.30	60.10	58.30	43.50
London	69.50	60.30	74.30	71.30	78.50	71.90	72.10
South East	58.60	53.20	63.30	63.00	67.30	62.80	54.20
South West	51.90	47.70	55.00	56.10	58.30	55.50	45.20
Wales	44.60	42.10	46.20	46.60	48.10	46.70	39.50
Scotland	39.50	37.30	41.30	41.20	43.20	43.00	36.40

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

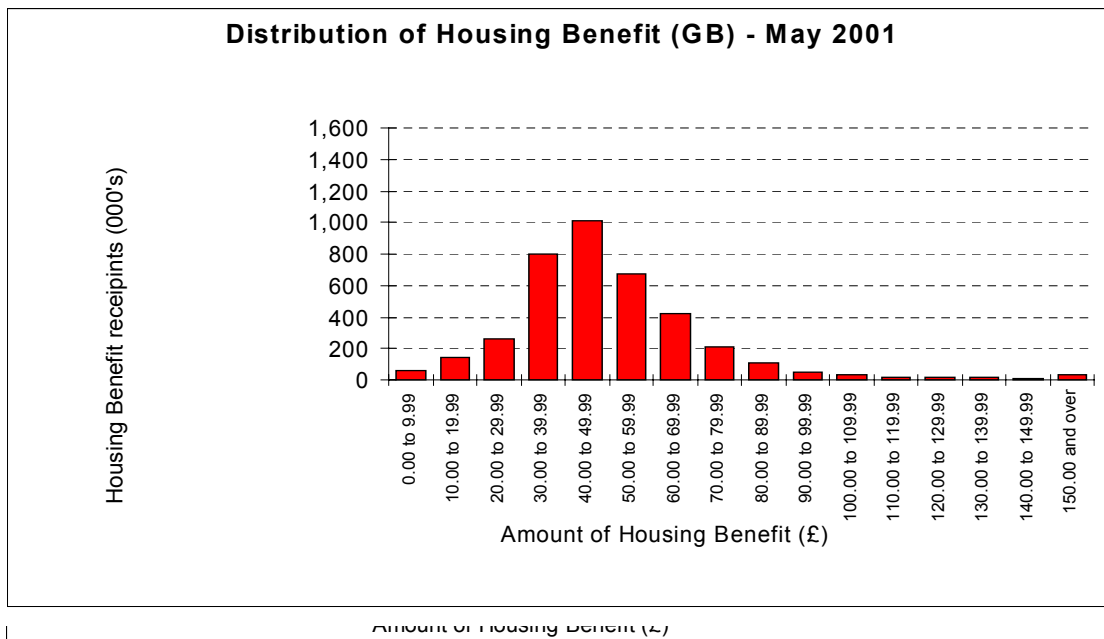
### 3.8 Eligible Rent: Great Britain.



Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

The chart above shows the distribution of eligible rents paid by recipients of HB and the chart below shows the distribution of the weekly amount of HB paid, in ten-pound bands for Great Britain as a whole.

### 3.9 Housing Benefit: Great Britain



### 3.10 Overlap of Housing Benefit with other benefits and earnings(GB) - May 2001

Benefit/earnings	Recipients of Housing Benefit and the named benefit	Proportion of all Housing Benefit recipients
	000s	%
Income Support	2,304	59
JSA (income based)	299	8
JSA (contribution based)	47	1
Child Benefit	1,167	30
Retirement Pension	1,459	38
Incapacity Benefit	398	10
Severe Disablement Allowance	114	3
Industrial Injuries Benefit	28	1
Attendance Allowance	377	10
Invalid Care Allowance	126	3
War Disability Pension	27	1
War Widows Pension	9	-
Widows Benefit	18	0
DLA Care	484	12
DLA Mobility	535	14
Employed Earners	358	9
Self Employed Earners	19	0

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Notes: 1. Child Benefit includes Child Benefit (Lone Parent)

2. Claimants may be in receipt of more than one of the above benefits.

- The table above shows number in receipt of HB and the other named social security benefits paid to the claimant and/or partner. Only the main overlaps (in terms of numbers of recipients) are shown and the list is therefore not exhaustive. However, it should be noted that some HB recipients also receive more than one of these benefits and therefore appear more than once in the table.
- The main overlaps with HB (in terms of numbers of recipients) are Income Support (59%) Retirement Pension (38%) and Child Benefit (30%).
- Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) replaced Family Credit from 5<sup>th</sup> October 1999. This is a tax credit available to working families who are responsible for at least one child under 16 (or under 19 if in full time education up to A level or equivalent standard). The applicant or partner must be working 16 hours or more per week. Around 181 thousand (5%) of HB recipients were also in receipt of WFTC at May 2001.

## Housing Benefit Expenditure: by GOR and region and country

£ million

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
<b>Total HB Expenditure</b>	<b>10,875</b>	<b>11,379</b>	<b>11,176</b>	<b>11,067</b>	<b>11,177</b>	<b>11,158</b>
<b>Rent Rebate</b>						
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>5,430</b>	<b>5,569</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>5,403</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>5,263</b>
North East	332	340	334	332	298	343
North West	692	719	708	692	668	629
Yorkshire & Humberside	440	451	450	447	461	466
East Midlands	305	321	324	322	318	315
West Midlands	519	528	506	498	521	451
Eastern	365	373	366	361	365	361
London	1,149	1,178	1,151	1,118	1,124	1,125
South East	429	419	401	388	386	369
South West	307	305	295	278	248	232
England	4,538	4,634	4,535	4,436	4,389	4,292
Wales	262	270	268	266	273	270
Scotland	630	665	692	701	700	701
<b>Rent Allowance</b>						
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>5,445</b>	<b>5,810</b>	<b>5,681</b>	<b>5,664</b>	<b>5,815</b>	<b>5,895</b>
North East	189	203	202	207	213	219
North West	643	711	716	728	762	791
Yorkshire & Humberside	355	381	381	385	394	388
East Midlands	243	252	244	242	255	258
West Midlands	357	386	395	402	436	466
Eastern	411	435	423	418	421	417
London	1,495	1,556	1,461	1,411	1,404	1,395
South East	796	864	833	823	828	830
South West	457	484	471	479	510	513
England	4,946	5,272	5,126	5,095	5,223	5,277
Wales	223	236	233	234	240	245
Scotland	276	302	322	335	352	373

Source: Latest expenditure figures from Department for Work and Pensions, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, National Assembly for Wales and Scottish Executive.

- The table above shows the Housing Benefit expenditure for Great Britain from 1995/96 to 2000/2001 by region.
- Figures for the year 2000/01 are based on provisional out-turn information.
- Figures are rounded to the nearest million pounds.
- Some figures may not sum due to rounding
- Great Britain and Country figures are consistent with those published in the Departmental Report 2002/03 2003/04

## Local Reference Rent (January 1996 and October 1997) and Single Room Rent (October 1996) Housing Benefit changes

New arrangements for the treatment of certain HB claims from tenants in most private sector tenancies have applied from 2 January 1996. A brief description of the benefit changes can be found in the introduction.

### 3.12 Housing Benefit Recipients with a deregulated tenancy (exc. RSL) by cases assessed under the Local Reference Rent (January 1996 or October 1997) and Single Room Rent schemes – Great Britain, May 1996 – May 2001

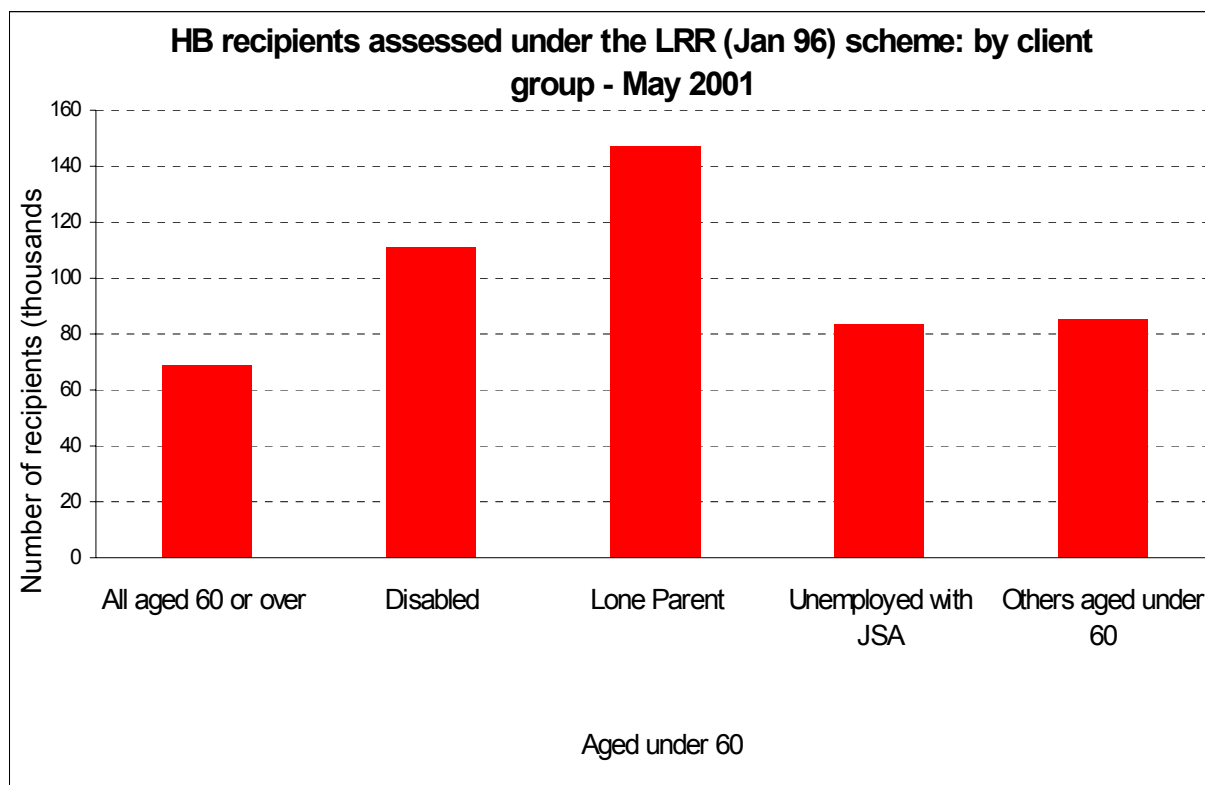
	May-96	May-97	May-98	May-99	May-00	May-01
<b>Total Deregulated</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>635</b>
All aged 60 and over	98	96	96	100	112	110
All aged under 60	832	772	707	648	575	525
<b>Of which:</b>						
Disabled	131	134	146	155	153	151
Lone Parent	190	194	210	208	194	177
Unemployed with JSA	345	276	194	151	112	96
Others aged under 60	167	168	156	134	115	100
<b>Of which:</b>						
<b>New scheme cases</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>496</b>
All aged 60 or over	8	33	48	60	76	69
All aged under 60	219	497	528	517	482	427
<b>Of which:</b>						
Disabled	24	73	96	116	121	111
Lone Parent	40	121	153	169	166	147
Unemployed with JSA	109	191	158	125	99	83
Others aged under 60	47	112	119	108	96	85

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the last day in May of each year until 1997 and then the second Thursday from 1998 onwards.

Note: 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National insurance credits only.

- The table above shows the numbers of recipients in selected client groups, assessed under the Local Reference Rent (LRR) January 1996 and October 1997 schemes and also the Single Room Rent (SRR) October 1996 scheme.
- Of the 635 thousand deregulated tenants receiving HB in May 2001, 78% had been assessed under one of the new LRR or SRR schemes.
- Of those receiving HB for a deregulated tenancy in May 2001, around 496 thousand recipients had been assessed under the LRR January 1996, October 1997 or SRR schemes. This represents about 14% of the total HB caseload.
- The Lone Parent client group account for the greatest proportion of those assessed under the LRR schemes, at approximately 30%. Those aged 60 or over form the smallest client grouping at 14% of all those assessed under the LRR schemes.

**Housing Benefit recipients (exc. RSL tenancies) assessed under the LRR and SRR schemes: by client group - May 2001**



The above chart shows the numbers of HB recipients with deregulated tenancies assessed under the LRR and SRR schemes by client group in Great Britain at May 2001. The table below shows a further split by Government Office Region.

**3.13 Housing Benefit recipients with a deregulated tenancy (exc. RSL) by cases assessed under the Local Reference Rent (January 1996 or October 1997) and Single Room Rent schemes by GOR and client group - May 2001.**

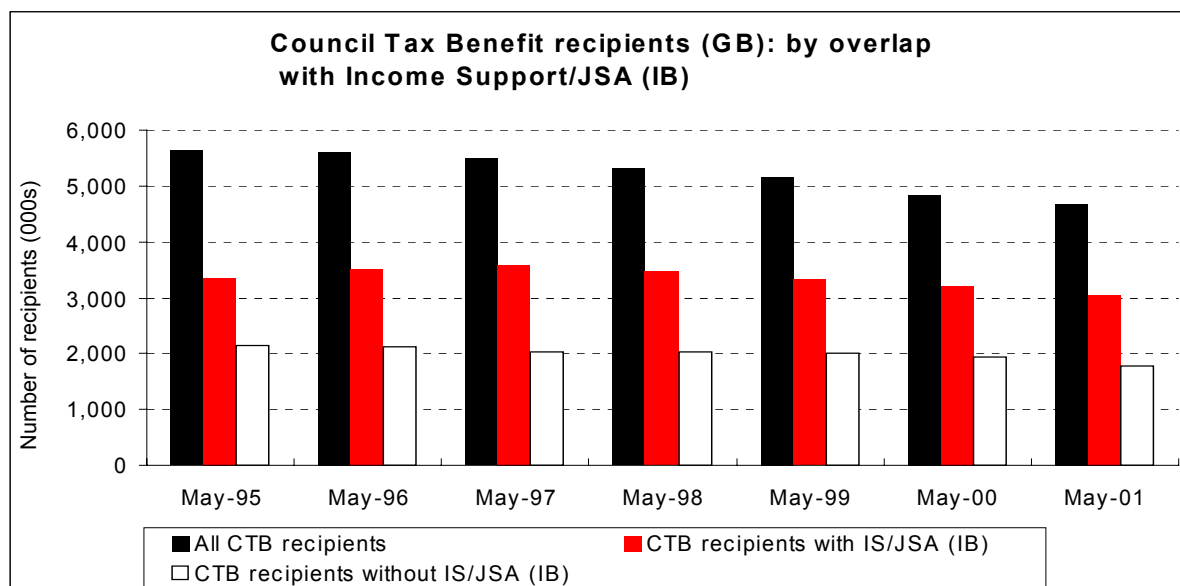
	Total	Aged under 60					Others aged under 60
		All aged 60 or over	All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA	
	000s	000s	000s	000s	000s	000s	000s
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>85</b>
England	426	59	366	93	128	69	76
North East	26	3	23	6	9	4	3
North West	84	10	73	24	26	11	13
Yorks and the Humber	46	4	42	12	16	8	6
East Midlands	29	3	26	8	9	4	5
West Midlands	31	7	24	6	10	4	3
East	36	5	31	7	13	5	6
London	66	7	59	8	15	16	19
South East	55	10	45	10	16	8	12
South West	54	10	44	12	14	9	9
Wales	36	5	31	10	9	7	4
Scotland	35	4	30	8	10	7	5

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

## 4. Council Tax Benefit Analyses

### Council Tax Benefit Recipients - GB



- The total Main Council Tax Benefit caseload (that is, number of recipients) stood at 4.67 million in May 2001. This was approximately 3% lower than the figure reported for May 2000. Numbers have been steadily declining for several years.
- The number of second adult rebates (SARs) at May 2001 stood at around 28 thousand. Further details of SARs can be found on page 4.

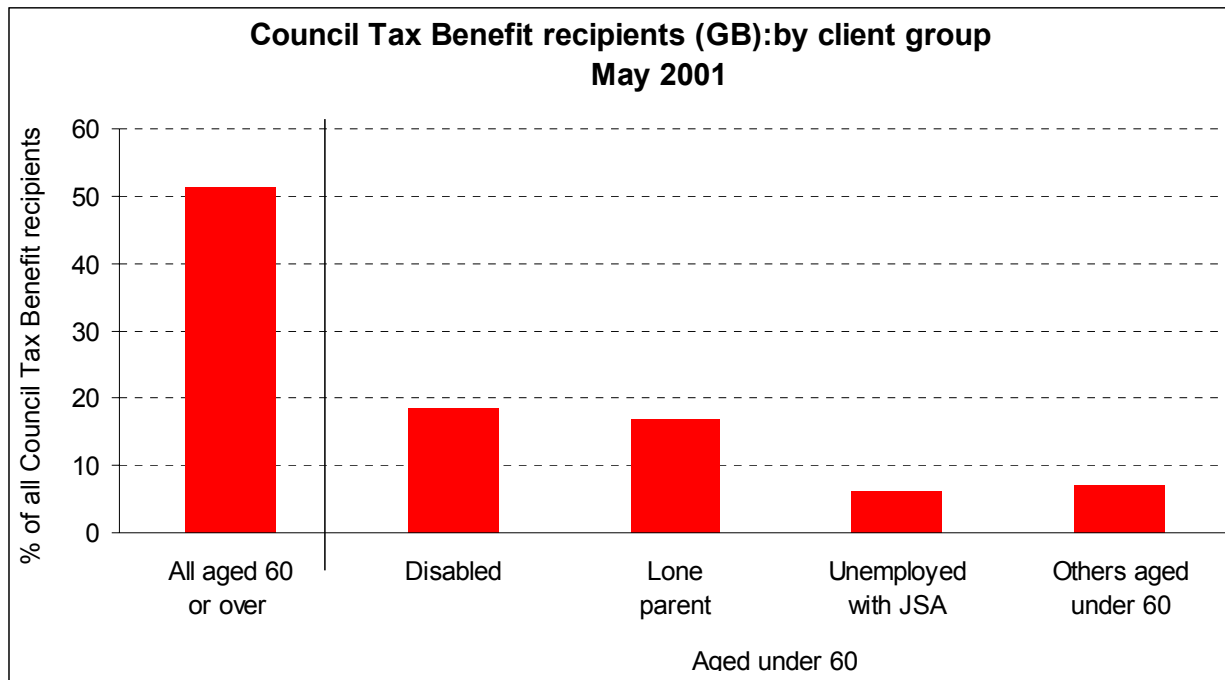
#### 4.1 Council Tax Benefit Recipients: by overlap with IS/JSA(IB) and Second Adult Rebates

	Council Tax Benefit recipients <sup>1</sup>					
	Total CTB (=100%)	Also in receipt of IS/JSA (IB)		Not in receipt of IS/JSA (IB)		Second Adult Rebates
	000s	000s	%	000s	%	%
May-95	5,624	3,513	62	2,111	38	51
May-96	5,611	3,574	64	2,037	36	47
May-97	5,499	3,476	63	2,023	37	43
May-98	5,326	3,321	62	2,005	38	42
May-99	5,166	3,227	62	1,939	38	38
May-00	4,830	3,061	63	1,769	37	34
May-01	4,673	3,069	66	1,604	34	28

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the last day of May in each year until 1997 and then the second Thursday from 1998 onwards.

Note:1. Second Adult Rebates are not included under "Council Tax Benefit recipients".

## Council Tax Benefit recipients by client group.



- The above chart shows the proportion of CTB recipients by client group in GB at May 2001. The table below shows a further split by Government Office Region.
- Those aged 60 or over account for approximately 51% of the total Council Tax Benefit caseload of 4.67 million, and those with a lone parent premium about 17%. The percentage aged 60 or over is lowest (42%) in London and highest (58%) in East region. The percentages that are lone parents varies from 14% in Scotland to 23% in London.

### 4.2 Council Tax Benefit Recipients: by client group and region - May 2001

Thousands

	Total CTB recipients	Aged under 60					All recipients as % of population <sub>3</sub>	
		All aged 60 or over	All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA		Others aged under 60
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
England	3,867	1,990	1,877	690	672	235	280	10.0%
North East	296	146	150	60	44	22	24	14.8%
North West	659	323	336	148	106	34	47	12.4%
Yorks and the Humber	438	230	208	75	71	29	32	11.2%
East Midlands	305	162	144	51	51	19	23	9.4%
West Midlands	463	258	205	78	68	29	31	11.3%
East	341	197	144	51	54	18	21	8.1%
London	607	257	350	109	141	49	51	10.6%
South East	432	242	189	63	80	18	27	6.9%
South West	326	175	151	53	57	17	24	8.4%
Wales	264	132	132	63	38	16	15	11.6%
Scotland	542	281	261	110	76	35	40	13.6%

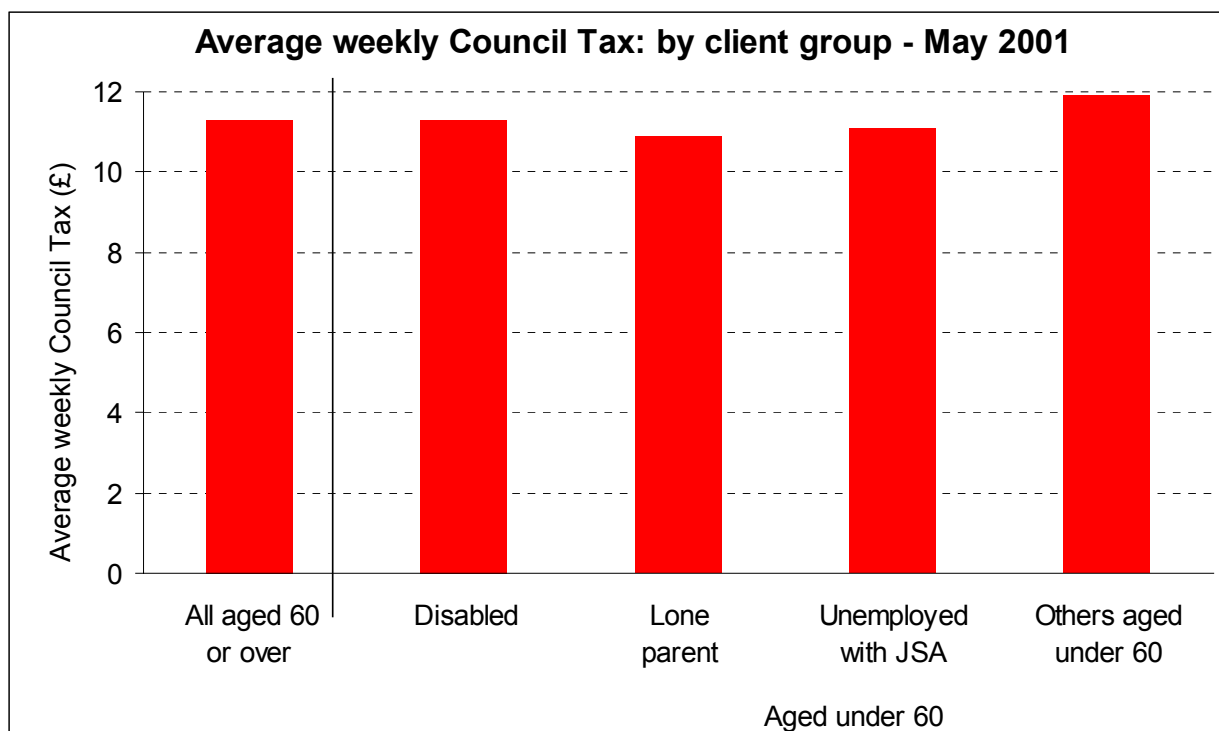
Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 1. The above figures do not include Second Adult Rebates.

2. 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

3. Individuals aged 18 and over.

## Amount of eligible Council Tax: by client group



- The chart above shows the average amount of council tax per week for recipients of CTB split by client group for May 2001. The table below shows a further split by region.
- The average amount of council tax per week for recipients of CTB in Great Britain in May 2001 was £11.30. Within the regions this ranged from £9.20 in Wales to £12.90 in London.

### 4.3 Average weekly amounts of eligible Council Tax: by client group - May 2001

£pw

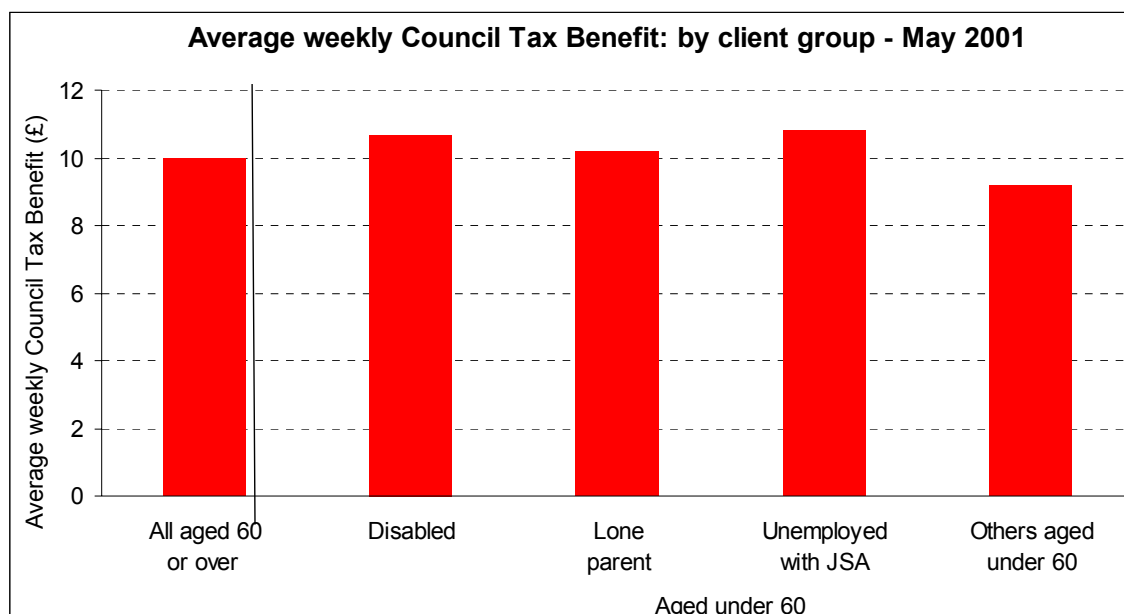
	Total CTB recipients	All aged 60 or over	Aged under 60				Others aged under 60
			All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA	
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>11.30</b>	<b>11.30</b>	<b>11.20</b>	<b>11.30</b>	<b>10.90</b>	<b>11.10</b>	<b>11.90</b>
England	11.40	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.00	11.20	12.10
North East	11.10	11.20	11.10	11.30	10.20	11.20	12.00
North West	11.60	11.80	11.50	11.70	11.00	11.20	12.10
Yorks and the Humber	10.40	10.40	10.30	10.50	9.60	10.40	11.20
East Midlands	11.00	11.00	10.90	11.20	10.30	11.40	11.50
West Midlands	10.90	11.00	10.90	11.10	10.20	10.70	12.10
East	11.10	11.30	10.90	11.00	10.70	11.00	11.40
London	12.90	13.00	12.80	12.90	12.80	12.20	13.10
South East	11.50	11.60	11.40	11.30	11.00	11.20	12.60
South West	11.10	11.20	10.90	11.00	10.60	11.00	11.70
Wales	9.20	9.20	9.30	9.50	8.90	9.00	9.50
Scotland	11.30	11.40	11.20	11.40	10.80	11.30	11.70

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 1. The above figures do not include Second Adult Rebates.

2. 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

## Amount of Council Tax Benefit: by client group.



- The chart above shows the average Council Tax Benefit per week split by client group for May 2001. The table below shows a further split by Government Office Region.
- The average weekly Council Tax Benefit for GB in May 2001 was £10.10. Within the regions this ranged from £8.40 in Wales to £11.70 in London.

### 4.4 Average weekly amounts of Council Tax Benefit: by client group - May 2001. £pw

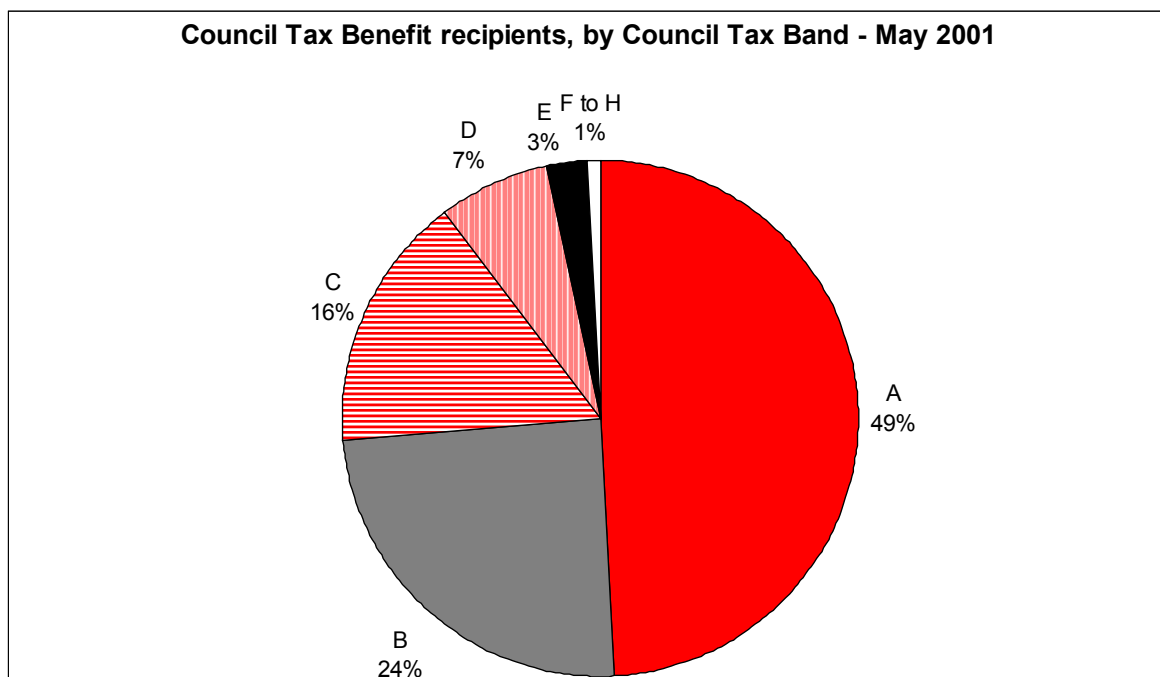
	Total CTB recipients	Aged under 60					
		All aged 60 or over	All aged under 60	Disabled	Lone Parent	Unemployed with JSA	Others aged under 60
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>10.10</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>10.70</b>	<b>10.20</b>	<b>10.80</b>	<b>9.20</b>
England	10.30	10.10	10.40	10.80	10.40	11.00	9.20
North East	10.00	9.90	10.20	10.60	9.50	11.00	9.50
North West	10.50	10.40	10.50	11.00	10.30	10.90	9.30
Yorks and the Humber	9.40	9.20	9.50	9.90	9.20	10.20	8.70
East Midlands	9.80	9.70	9.90	10.40	9.70	10.90	8.80
West Midlands	9.80	9.80	10.00	10.50	9.50	10.50	9.10
East	10.00	9.90	10.10	10.50	10.00	10.80	8.60
London	11.70	11.50	11.90	12.30	12.30	11.90	10.00
South East	10.20	10.10	10.40	10.60	10.40	11.00	9.70
South West	9.90	10.00	9.80	10.20	9.80	10.70	8.50
Wales	8.40	8.20	8.50	8.80	8.40	8.80	7.40
Scotland	10.10	9.90	10.40	10.80	9.90	11.00	9.50

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 1. The above figures do not include Second Adult Rebates.

2. 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

## Valuation Band



- The chart above and the table below show the recipients of Council Tax Benefit analysed by Council Tax band.
- The valuation bands are based on the estimated sale prices of properties on 1 April 1991 (but taking account of any significant changes to the property between then and 1 April 1993). Band A is the lowest and band H the highest. The bands are different for England, Scotland and Wales; further details can be found at Appendix C.

### 4.5 Council Tax Benefit Recipients: by valuation band and client group - May 2001

	Total CTB recipients = (100%)	Aged under 60											
		All aged 60 or over		All aged under 60		Disabled		Lone Parent		Unemployed with JSA		Others aged under 60	
		000s	%	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
<b>All Bands</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>2,304</b>	1,136	49	1,167	51	484	21	352	15	162	7	169	7
<b>B</b>	<b>1,134</b>	586	52	548	48	199	18	210	19	65	6	73	6
<b>C</b>	<b>756</b>	413	55	343	45	109	14	141	19	34	5	58	8
<b>D</b>	<b>322</b>	177	55	146	45	48	15	60	19	16	5	22	7
<b>E</b>	<b>118</b>	67	57	51	43	17	14	19	16	5	5	10	8
<b>F</b>	<b>30</b>	18	60	12	40	4	15	3	9	2	8	3	9
<b>G</b>	<b>9</b>	6	66	3	34	1	11	1	9	-	2	1	13
<b>H</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Note: 1. The above figures do not include Second Adult Rebates.

2. 'Unemployed with JSA' excludes Jobseekers receiving National Insurance credits only.

#### 4.6 Overlap of Council Tax Benefit with other benefits and earnings(GB) - May 2001

Benefit/earnings	Recipients of Council Tax Benefit and the named benefit	Proportion of all Council Tax Benefit recipients
	000s	%
Income Support	2,769	59
JSA (income based)	301	6
JSA (contribution based)	52	1
Child Benefit	1,219	26
Retirement Pension	2,132	46
Incapacity Benefit	508	11
Severe Disablement Allowance	112	2
Industrial Injuries Benefit	37	1
Attendance Allowance	545	12
Invalid Care Allowance	162	3
War Disability Pension	42	1
War Widows Pension	13	-
Widows Benefit	27	1
DLA Care	575	12
DLA Mobility	651	14
Employed Earners	342	7
Self Employed Earners	26	1

Source: 1% sample of recipients taken on the second Thursday of May

Notes: 1. Child Benefit includes Child Benefit (Lone Parent)

2. Claimants may be in receipt of more than one of the above benefits.

- The table above shows the numbers in receipt of Council Tax Benefit and the other named social security benefits paid to the claimant and/or partner. Only the main overlaps (in terms of number of recipients) are shown and the list is therefore not exhaustive. However, it should be noted that some Council Tax Benefit recipients also receive more than one of these benefits and therefore appear more than once in the table.
- The main Council Tax Benefit overlaps (in terms of numbers) are with Income Support (59%), Retirement Pension (46%) and Child Benefit (26%).
- Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) replaced Family Credit from 5<sup>th</sup> October 1999. This is a tax credit available to working families who are responsible for at least one child under 16 (or under 19 if in full time education up to A level or equivalent standard). The applicant or partner must be working 16 hours or more per week. Around 136 thousand (3%) of Council Tax Benefit recipients were also in receipt of WFTC at May 2001.

## Council Tax Benefit Expenditure: by GOR and country

£ million

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
<b>Total CTB Expenditure</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>2,569</b>
North East	127	132	139	144	152	155
North West	335	351	367	374	380	380
Yorkshire & Humberside	195	199	205	213	217	221
East Midlands	136	139	139	147	154	156
West Midlands	215	223	230	233	244	252
Eastern	158	162	161	167	176	181
London	373	398	399	384	381	388
South East	212	218	216	221	230	234
South West	152	156	158	163	169	173
England	1,903	1,978	2,014	2,046	2,103	2,139
Wales	73	87	94	103	108	119
Scotland	213	246	287	303	306	310

*Source: Latest expenditure figures from Department of Work and Pensions, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, National Assembly for Wales and Scottish Executive.*

- The table above shows the Council Tax Benefit expenditure for Great Britain from 1995/96 to 2000/2001 by region.
- Figures for the year 2000/01 are based on provisional out-turn information.
- Figures are rounded to the nearest million pounds.
- Some figures may not sum due to rounding.
- Great Britain and Country figures are consistent with those published in the Departmental Report 2002/03 –2003/04.



## Glossary of Terms

Caseload	The term used to refer to the number of recipients of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit at a point in time.
Claim Related Rent	The lowest of the Rent Officer's determinations of contractual, significantly high, exceptionally high or size-related determination and is net of all ineligible charges (including fuel/water).
Deregulated	Tenancies created after January 1989 where the rent (or assured) is a market tenancy rent freely negotiated by landlord and tenant.
Eligible Rent	The amount of rent eligible for Housing Benefit (see page 3).
Registered Social Landlord	A society, body of trustees or company established for the purpose of providing housing accommodation on a non-profit-making basis. This is now the standard term for all Housing Associations (and for the purpose of this publication, all references to Housing Associations have been amended to Registered Social Landlord).
Jobseeker's Allowance (income based)	A Social Security benefit intended to help people on low incomes, can normally be claimed by people who are: aged 18 or over; available for full-time employment; working under 16 hours.
Income Support	A Social Security benefit intended to help people on low incomes. Can normally be claimed by people who are: aged 18 or over ; working under 16 hours ; not required to be available for full-time employment.
Local Reference Rent	Represents the general level of local rents for property with the same number of rooms.
Main Council Tax	One of the two types of Council Tax Benefit (see page 4).
Maximum Rent	The rent on which Housing Benefit is usually calculated, and from which has been deducted any amounts for food, fuel and water.
Regulated Tenancy	Tenancies created prior to January 1989 where either the tenant or the landlord may apply to the rent officer for registration of a fair rent.
Rent Allowance	The name given to Housing Benefit paid to Private tenants (including Registered Social Landlord tenants).
Rent Rebate	The name given to Housing Benefit paid to Local Authority tenants.
Second adult rebate	One of the two types of Council Tax Benefit (see page 4).
Single Room Rent	The amount of rent which is assigned by the Rent Officer to the cost of a non self contained room in a property with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.

## Government Office Regions of England, Wales, Scotland



## Valuation bands for Council Tax

Council Tax bills are based on the relative value of a property compared to others. The value of each property is assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (part of the Inland Revenue) and placed in one of eight council tax *valuation bands*. The assessment is based on the estimated sale price of the dwelling at *1 April 1991*, taking account of any significant change to the property between then and *1 April 1993*, such as an extension.

The valuation bands for England, Scotland and Wales are as follows:

<b>Band</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Wales</b>
<b>A</b>	Up to <b>£40,000</b>	Up to <b>£27,000</b>	Up to <b>£30,000</b>
<b>B</b>	Over <b>£40,000</b> and up to <b>£52,000</b>	Over <b>£27,000</b> and up to <b>£35,000</b>	Over <b>£30,000</b> and up to <b>£39,000</b>
<b>C</b>	Over <b>£52,000</b> and up to <b>£68,000</b>	Over <b>£35,000</b> and up to <b>£45,000</b>	Over <b>£39,000</b> and up to <b>£51,000</b>
<b>D</b>	Over <b>£68,000</b> and up to <b>£88,000</b>	Over <b>£45,000</b> and up to <b>£58,000</b>	Over <b>£51,000</b> and up to <b>£66,000</b>
<b>E</b>	Over <b>£88,000</b> and up to <b>£120,000</b>	Over <b>£58,000</b> and up to <b>£80,000</b>	Over <b>£66,000</b> and up to <b>£90,000</b>
<b>F</b>	Over <b>£120,000</b> and up to <b>£160,000</b>	Over <b>£80,000</b> and up to <b>£106,000</b>	Over <b>£90,000</b> and up to <b>£120,000</b>
<b>G</b>	Over <b>£160,000</b> and up to <b>£320,000</b>	Over <b>£106,000</b> and up to <b>£212,000</b>	Over <b>£120,000</b> and up to <b>£240,000</b>
<b>H</b>	Over <b>£320,000</b>	Over <b>£212,000</b>	Over <b>£240,000</b>





