



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
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www.gov.uk/mhclg

Garry Richardson

Date: **7 September 2020**

Dear Mr Richardson

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 8686933

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 10 August 2020 and processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested: *"Can you please confirm the following:*

- i) How many food boxes have been issued in England.*
 - ii) How many food boxes have been issued in the North West of England.*
 - iii) How many food boxes have been issued in Lancashire.*
 - iv) How many food boxes have been issued in the Blackpool North and Clevelleys constituency.*
 - v) How many food boxes have been issued in the Blackpool South constituency.*
- The above requested information is for the period 23 March 2020 till 31 July 2020. I look forward to hearing from you."*

I can confirm that some of the information requested is held by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and we are able to provide you with the information we hold. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Through the National Shielding Service between 27 March and 31 July 2020, the government has provided 4,724,611 food packages in England. The food packages were standardised and contained basic food and household essentials.

The food packages were supplied and delivered by wholesalers Brakes and Bidfood, through a contract managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Local Authorities have also separately provided food packages to meet dietary, cultural or religious needs where needed.

The figure above is the total number of food packages delivered in England through the National Shielding Service. It does not include food packages provided by Local Authorities during that period.

MHCLG does not hold the geographical breakdown of the total number of food packages provided in England that you have requested. Information within scope of this part of your request may be held by DEFRA, Cabinet Office or local authorities.

DEFRA's FOI team can be contacted at: defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk

Cabinet Office's FOI team can be contacted at: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
4th Floor SE, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address casewo@ico.org.uk or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

MHCLG FOI Team