



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
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6-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2023/51558

1 August 2023

Dear Emily Silcock,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 3 July. You wrote:

“Many thanks for your response to my previous FOI request.

Could I please have the exact same data as FOI2023 38880, but for 2017 instead of 2019?

Link to FOI2023 38880:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/daily_number_of_applications_for_4#incoming-2336171”

You previously wrote:

“I would like to request the number of applications made to Housing Benefit, at a daily level, for each day in 2019.

To be clear, I would like the total number for each day separately, so a sample dataset could have every date in 2019 in the first column and the applications in the second column. The date should be the date that the initial application was made, not the date of the decision - and I would like all applications, whether or not they were successful.”

DWP Response

We confirm that we do hold the information you have requested.

A copy of the information is provided in the attached file FOI2023_51558_Data.ods

Source: DWP Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Statistical disclosure control has been applied to this data to avoid the release of confidential data.
2. SHBE data is produced from voluntary returns, provided by local authorities, therefore the number of HB applications represented here are only where a local authority has provided a return. Furthermore, some applications may be reported late and as such are not covered in this tabulation.

3. The accuracy of this data is reliant on the information supplied by local authorities, as such the variables used in this tabulation have not been validated.
4. In some cases, applications with multiple different receipt dates exist. In these cases, each receipt date has been counted as a separate application.
5. These figures are derived from data underlying published information, but this analysis has not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard and so should be treated with caution.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113