

# Report to Scrutiny Commission

Neighbourhood Services and Community  
Involvement Scrutiny Commission

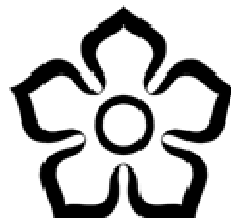
Date of Commission meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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## **Impact of Welfare Reform**

Report from the Director of Finance

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Leicester  
City Council

**Useful Information:**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Caroline Jackson
- Author contact details: 0116 454 2507 caroline.j63@leicester.gov.uk
- Date of Exec meeting: N/A

**1. Summary**

The neighbourhood services and scrutiny commission requested a report detailing results of the initial six month analysis of the impacts of Welfare Reform upon city neighbourhoods and service delivery.

**2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny**

Scrutiny is asked to note the impacts and trends highlighted in the report and comment on the analysis and initial findings.

**3. Supporting Information**

The enactment of the Welfare Reform Act of 2012 made a number of significant changes to the fundamental Welfare benefit system for the UK. The government's ambitious timetable for implementation has been achieved in part, in particular where the local authority is the administering authority.

There are a number of major reforms affecting significant numbers of people. This report Gives an overview of the changes, who it affected and what mitigation the council has put in place to assist its citizens to cope with adverse impacts.

**3.1 A summary of recent Welfare Reform**

The timeline for the implementation of welfare reform is shown in appendix A. Reforms which are currently impacting in the city from April 2013 are:

- Council Tax Reduction Scheme ( April 2013)
- Under-occupancy penalty (April 2013)
- Benefit income cap (August 2013)

The groups mostly affected to date are:

- Low-income, working age households (especially those with larger families)
- Social housing estates and other low-income neighbourhoods

Key council-led interventions include:

- Public engagement to promote the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Public engagement to offer advice and support to tenants
- Collaborative working with DWP

There is an increasing concern amongst advice agencies in the City about the number of Job Centre Plus sanctions applied to individuals claiming job seekers allowance and Employment Support Allowance claimants

**3.2 Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

This reform required local authorities to develop and agree their own council tax reduction schemes to replace Council Tax Benefit. This is now grant funded rather than a subsidy, with an immediate 10% reduction in funding. Our adopted scheme is:

- Every working age council tax charge payer is asked to pay at least 20% of their council tax bill. The average bill to pay is £198.

- This is a discount offered by the council not a state benefit
- Pensioners are protected from the change
- Financial support was limited to awards above £3.80 per week
- The charge payer must have capital below £6,000.
- A map showing the wards where the greatest loss in benefit was seen is in appendix B

#### Mitigation and trends:

- Targeted ‘talk to us’ publicity campaign
- Additional ‘prompt to pay’ letters were sent to a target client group
- Where the debt is not paid, the council sought to reduce the burden of debt for all households in the city through negotiating lower court costs
- Expected number of charge payers issued with liability orders to allow recovery of debt through attachment to welfare benefit payments is less than anticipated
- Of the 15,000 who had a bill to pay this year 7,000 payers have paid in full or are paying regular instalments and expected to pay in full.
- Take up of the scheme has been less than expected.
- Council tax collection against the target is strong.
- The council tax collectable debt for 2013/14 is £98.3m. This is an increase in debt to collect of £12m. Of this as at Quarter 2 the council had collected 53.41% of its target. Compared to a collectable debt of £86.3m in 2012/13 and a comparable collect rate of 54.27% against the target.

### **3.3 Under-occupancy penalty (bedroom tax)**

This introduced a Housing Benefit scheme to the social housing sector that already existed in the private rented sector; which is that Housing Benefit is awarded based on household need not on the rent charged. The effect brought in a weekly reduction to the Housing benefit award of 14% for one spare room and 25% reduction where the accommodation rented had more than two rooms spare.

- Of the 129,603 residential household spaces in the city, 31,270 are thought to be provided by a social housing provider. Of these 22,210 is council stock.
- The rule impacted on all social housing
- In total 3,844 households affected from April 2013
- Average loss per household is £11.12pw for one spare room or £19.80pw for two or more spare rooms
- A graph showing the percentage of households affected by the rule is detailed in appendix C.
- A map showing the distribution of households affected by the under-occupancy rule is shown in appendix D

#### Mitigation and trends:

- Where known, all households particularly in council stock were contacted prior to the rule applying to them offering advice and support.
- Leaflets are available offering advice on taking on a lodger
- All households have been offered housing advice and supporting them should they wish to move to cheaper smaller alternative accommodation.
- High take up for discretionary applications (point 3.5). Support of this nature is on-going where the householder is helping themselves to manage the financial commitment.
- Controversy extended into the definition of “what size is a bedroom?” (See appendix E), room reclassification and whether the council should advocate a no eviction policy for tenants facing welfare reform.
- Since April 2013 **603** households no longer have the rule applied.
- The collection of rent owed to the council is less than last year however this was anticipated.
- The collectable debt for rent for 2013/14 is £33.2m. This is an increase in debt to collect

of £3.3m. Of this as at Quarter 2 the council had collected 96.34% of the rent due. Compared to a collectable debt of £29.8m in 2012/13 and a comparable collect rate of 98.6% against the target.

### **3.4 Benefit Income Cap**

This was introduced in the city from August 2013, four months later than timetabled. This initiative looks to limit the total income households receive from state welfare benefits. Singles can receive a total income of £350 per week and families and couples £500 per week. Disabled households are disregarded from this rule. This is phased in over two stages the first being to restrict the housing benefit households receive to as little as 50 pence a week.

- Of the 42,075 housing benefit recipients in the city this rule affects 202<sup>1</sup> households or 0.009%.
- They are of working age
- 92% are households with children. 72% of these are female claimants and of these 59% are lone parents.
- 47% white, 36% black, minority, ethnic, 17% unknown
- 28% are male claimants; all singles affected by the cap are male.
- Average loss is between £22.61 and £66.32 per week in social housing
- Average loss is between £28.62 and £116.36 in private rented housing.
- A map showing the distribution of households across the City of Leicester affected by the Benefit Income Cap rule is included at Appendix F.

#### **Mitigation and trends:**

- Following the national trend only half the households expected to be affected by the rule have actually had the rule applied and their Housing benefit reduced.
- Collaborative working with job centre plus supports households back into the jobs market
- Improving skills through training
- All households are in the process of being contacted to offer housing advice and supporting them should they wish to move to cheaper alternative accommodation.
- All households with children have been contacted to ensure support and advice is offered and households have enough food to feed the children.
- Housing options are monitoring the housing market and report on notice of seeking possessions/evictions to establish if this rule is resulting in families losing their home.

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<sup>1</sup> As at 30.9.13

### 3.5 Overview of the local impacts to date

#### At a glance table showing the impact of Welfare Reform changes.

Welfare reform change	Who is affected by the change?	What type of housing tenure is impacted?	How many households are affected by the change?	Average benefit loss per week	Three main wards affected by the change.
<b>Council tax Reduction Scheme</b>	Working age	All domestic dwellings	25,565	£3.80	New Parks Spinney Hills Beaumont leys
<b>Under-Occupancy Rule</b>	Working age	Council properties	Total 2,643	£10.91	New Parks Braunstone Park /Rowley Fields Eyers Monsell
			One spare bedroom 1,763		
			Two or more spare bedrooms 880		
	Working age	Housing Association	1,201	One bed £12.54	Spinney Hills Coleman Stoneygate
			One spare bedroom 789		
			Two or more spare bedrooms 413		
<b>Benefit Income Cap</b>	Working age	All domestic dwellings	202	£22.61 - £116.36	Spinney Hills Stoneygate Braunstone/Rowley Fields

#### Council Tax collection

The council tax collectable debt for 2013/14 is £98.3m. This is an increase in debt to collect of £12m. Of this as at Quarter 2 the council had collected 53.41% of its target. Compared to a collectable debt of £86.3m in 2012/13 and a comparable collection rate of 54.27% against the target.

#### Collection of Housing rent

The collectable debt for rent for 2013/14 is £33.2m. This is an increase in debt to collect of £3.3m. Of this as at Quarter 2 the council had collected 96.34% of the rent due. Compared to a collectable debt of £29.8m in 2012/13 and a comparable collection rate of 98.6% against the target.

### Impact upon Homelessness

One possible way of measuring the direct impact of welfare reform on homelessness in the city is by reviewing the number of households the council has a duty to re-house.

Comparable year on year data where Leicester City council had a duty to re house.		
	12/13	13/14
<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>How many of these households had dependent children resident?</b>	31	28
<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>How many of these households had dependent children resident?</b>	19	22

### Discretionary Payment Applications

The following table shows the expenditure associated with additional financial support offered through Discretionary funds detailed by tenure, what has been awarded to date (beginning of December 2013) and what is the predicted year end spend based on the current application volumes.

Spend by Tenure	Total grant values	Awarded to date	Remaining Predicted spend for 13/14	Estimated total spend
<b>Council Housing</b>	} <b>DHP total government grant fund</b>	£240,102	£125,740	<b>Please note this does not include backdated awards</b>
<b>Registered Social Landlord</b>			£54,280	
<b>Private Accommodation</b>		£256,743	£214,020	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£813,000</b>	<b>£496,845</b>	<b>£394,040</b>	<b>£890,885</b>
<b>Council Tax Discretionary Discount</b>	<b>£349,000</b>	<b>£201,165</b>	<b>£195,202K</b>	<b>£396,367</b>

DHP paid to date by welfare reform rule	No. of cases where a DHP has been awarded	DHP paid to date	DHP committed	Total awarded as at 21.11.13
<b>Under-occupancy</b>	540	£177,619	£81,500	£259,119
<b>Benefit income cap</b>	58	£28,065	£51,471	£79,536

Equality and vulnerability details based on discretionary expenditure from April 2013 to December 2013 is detailed in appendix G.

### 3.6 Job Centre Plus sanctions and other intelligence from local advice agencies

There is an increasing concern in the City about the number of Job Centre Plus (JCP) sanctions applied to individuals claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants. Sanctions or adverse decisions as JCP describe them are applied where the claimant is considered to be failing to meet the job search compliance regime. A table detailing the sanction levels applied where a job seeker fails to meet the work compliance regime is shown in appendix I.

- In September 2013 11,400 people claimed JSA and 15,900 claimed ESA (including Incapacity benefit claimants) in the city.
- Of the 492,000 adverse decisions made nationally between October 2012 and June 2013, in the city 4,570 were applied to JSA claimants and 250 ESA claimants.
- Where records have been maintained between January and September 2013, 140 claimants sort benefit advice from the main advice agencies in the City. The advice sector feels this detail is merely the tip of the iceberg as claimants tend to only seek support in extreme cases. They have been monitoring this increasing caseload since January 2013. A detail of the monitoring is recorded in appendix J.

### 3.7 Neighbourhood impacts

The 'hot spots' in the city can be identified with reference to the following maps:

- Council tax benefit losses map (appendix B)
- Under occupancy penalty map (appendix D)
- Benefit income map (appendix F)

This information highlights the areas of the city where households are *most likely* to be experiencing cumulative impacts of welfare reforms and, consequently, presenting an increased risk of issues including debt management, hardship, safeguarding, and vulnerability to homelessness:

- North West (Beaumont leys, New parks)
- West (Braunstone park & Rowley Fields)
- South (Eyres Monsell)
- East (Spinney Hills, Stoneygate, Coleman)

One possible way of measuring the direct impact of welfare reform on homelessness in the city is by reviewing the number of households the council has a duty to re-house.

#### Comparable year on year data where Leicester City council had a duty to re house.

	12/13	13/14
<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>How many of these households had dependent children resident?</b>	31	28
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<b>How many of these households had dependent children resident?</b>	19	22

### **3.8 Horizon scanning**

#### **3.8.1 The roll out of Universal Credit**

The roll out of Universal Credit has been revised and the timetable indicates the national rollout will commence from the end of 2014 to expand and cover more of the North west of the UK. During 2016 all new benefit claimants across the country will claim Universal Credit however it has now been acknowledged that at least 700,000 claimants will not be on Universal Credit by the end of 2017.

Housing costs for pensioners will be incorporated into the pension credit calculation sometime from 2017/18 onwards.

#### **3.8.2. Local research and development**

##### **Mapping advice and support in the city**

The unprecedented level of cuts to local government funding will inevitably have a consequential impact for our citizens, other services and support the council provides. It is therefore critical to understand how these will impact on advice and support provision in the city. As such, one of the 17 major reviews of council services is to understand to develop a 'whole system' map of support services provided by the council and private and voluntary organisations operating in the city (both as it is now, and what options the council has for transformation). This will be achieved through working with key partners/groups through a number of activities over an 18 month period:

- Welfare Reform impact research project
- Local Support Service Framework and partnership working with the DWP
- Corporate Welfare Advice and Customer Service Review
- Transition to Universal Credit programme board
- Support Welfare Advice partnership (SWAP) group

##### **An informed review of advice and support**

To support evaluation of what is working, and what might need to change in respect of advice and support provision, the city council has commissioned research into the size and characteristics of the low-income household population in Leicester, and the experiences of local people, places and services affected by welfare reforms.

A team at Loughborough University are bringing together available data to estimate the numbers and characteristics of households in Leicester that do not have enough income for a minimum acceptable standard of living. These findings will be complemented by a range of locally co-ordinated research activities which aims to develop a 'joined up' analysis of how welfare reforms are being experienced by Leicester's people, places and services and the actual and potential consequences for standards of living and service delivery.

The core focus of the local research is to generate evidence to inform development of the council's discretionary funds policies and review of welfare advice and customer support. However, it is expected that the findings will be of wider interest and there is scope, over the next 12 months, for the focus of the local inquiry to be widened to inform other welfare-related developments (e.g. homelessness review).

### **3.9 Summary conclusions**

The impact of the reforms for the city are great however although it is very early days and the true medium term impact is not revealing itself as the city copes with the changes. However there are pockets of significant concern which the council is beginning to map and will continue to closely monitor as time goes on.



Key areas of concern continue to be:

- The financial and health impact on the disabled, their carers' and other vulnerable groups
- The financial and health impact upon children in the city
- Access to advice and support for the most in need in a sector seeing significant reductions
- Access to affordable accommodation
- Growing need for emergency food aid in the city

#### **4. Financial, legal and other implications**

##### 4.1 Financial implications

The roll-out of welfare reforms is ultimately aimed at reducing the £166bn national welfare bill. Locally the changes have increased the financial burden to both households and the council. The removal of the national council tax benefit scheme removed £4.7m of funding to Leicester and therefore the adoption of a local scheme had to balance the need to require a contribution to council tax from all households with the deteriorating budget position due to national cuts to local government funding.

In relation to under occupancy and benefit income cap, the council's discretionary housing payment fund allocation was increased in 2013/14 from £200k to £813k in recognition of the need for ongoing support to the most vulnerable households. Current forecasts show that demand for support will exceed the available resources, and this appears to be a nationally emerging picture. Future year's allocations (including 2014/15) are not yet known adding to the uncertainty around the level of support the council will be able to continue to give.

What is not yet quantifiable is the indirect cost of the increasing level of support required from both the council and other advice services. The benefits service experienced a massive increase in customer contact once some 15,000 council tax bills were delivered to first-time paying households; there is an increasing demand for food banks across the city and the housing service are engaging directly with those households adversely affected by the under-occupancy rule.

Alison Greenhill  
Director of Finance

##### 4.2 Legal implications

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty local authorities exercising public functions should consider the need to maintain standards of equality, equal opportunities and good relation between different groups.

Sarah Khawaja  
Principal Solicitor (Regulatory & Property)  
On behalf of City Barrister & Head of Standards  
0116 454 1448/37 1448

### 4.3. Climate Change implications

There are no significant climate change implications arising from this report.  
Chloe Hardisty, Senior Environmental Consultant (Ext 372252)

### 4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

#### Equality Impact Assessment

The report presents the location and type of households affected by the three areas of welfare reform, but there is insufficient data available to provide an accurate demographic profile. However, given our knowledge of the local profiles of these areas, it is likely that the protected characteristics of those most adversely affected would be gender (particularly as women are more likely to be heads of lone parent households); race (with a greater proportion of those affected being White); age (impacts on children of households affected); and disability (those with mental health problems are particularly disadvantaged in regard to JCP sanctions).

The report describes the mitigating actions in place locally to respond to the adverse impacts being experienced by local households. One mitigating action is the council's provision of Discretionary Housing Payments upon application. The information below profiles those who have received DHP payments for Housing Benefits and/or Council Tax Discretionary Relief:

Profile	HB/ CTDR	CTDR Only	Total
Care Leaver up to 22 years old	0	0	0
Dependent child 5 or under/IS case	75	1	76
Disabled Adult with carer	25	3	28
DLA middle/high rate	126	14	140
Domestic Violence	23	1	24
Drug/Alcohol dependency	23	1	24
ESA with Support component	274	32	306
Extreme Financial Hardship	900	38	938
Foster Carer	2	1	3
Foster Carer not fostering	0	0	0
Hostel leaver with support	12	0	12
Hostel leaver without support	9	1	10
Provide Care	47	4	51

1516                      96                      1612

Household Makeup	Total
Couple	172
Couple with children	175
Lone parent	347
Single	906
Pensioner	12

1612

A demographic breakdown of those in receipt of DHP will be circulated at the meeting, highlighting the protected characteristics of those in receipt of these payments.

A key consideration regarding equality impacts is that those affected by these adverse impacts will continue to change over time, as households respond to the additional financial burdens/limits placed on their household income. Some households already appear to be more resilient to these impacts and have not applied for discretionary relief. However, their positions could suddenly change. The research being undertaken on the impacts of welfare reform will help us understand the changing dynamics of impact and need for mitigating actions, and will assist us in assessing the cumulative impact of these reforms on individual households and on specific protected characteristics.

Irene Kszyk, Corporate Equalities Lead  
24.1.14

#### 4.5 Other Implications

(You will have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate any which apply?)

#### **5. Background information and other papers:**

#### **6. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A: Welfare Reform timetable.

Appendix B: Map showing the distribution of council tax benefits losses

Appendix C: A graph showing the under-occupancy impact upon social housing stock in the city.

Appendix D: Map showing the distribution of properties in the city affected by the under-occupancy penalty.

Appendix E: Definitions which apply to a bedroom in council housing stock.

Appendix F: Map showing the distribution of properties in the city affected by the Benefit Income cap by tenure type.

Appendix G: Equality and vulnerability details based on discretionary expenditure from April 2013 to December 2013.

Appendix H: A table detailing the Job Centre Plus adverse decision (sanction) regime from October 2012.

Appendix I: Summary of the Department for Works and Pension Adverse decision making (Sanction) data. Statistical information published 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Appendix J: Table showing the number of clients seen at advice centres in the city of Leicester reporting adverse decisions between the dates April 2013 and September 2013 in the City.

**7. Is this a private report ? No.**

**(If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)**

## Appendix A:

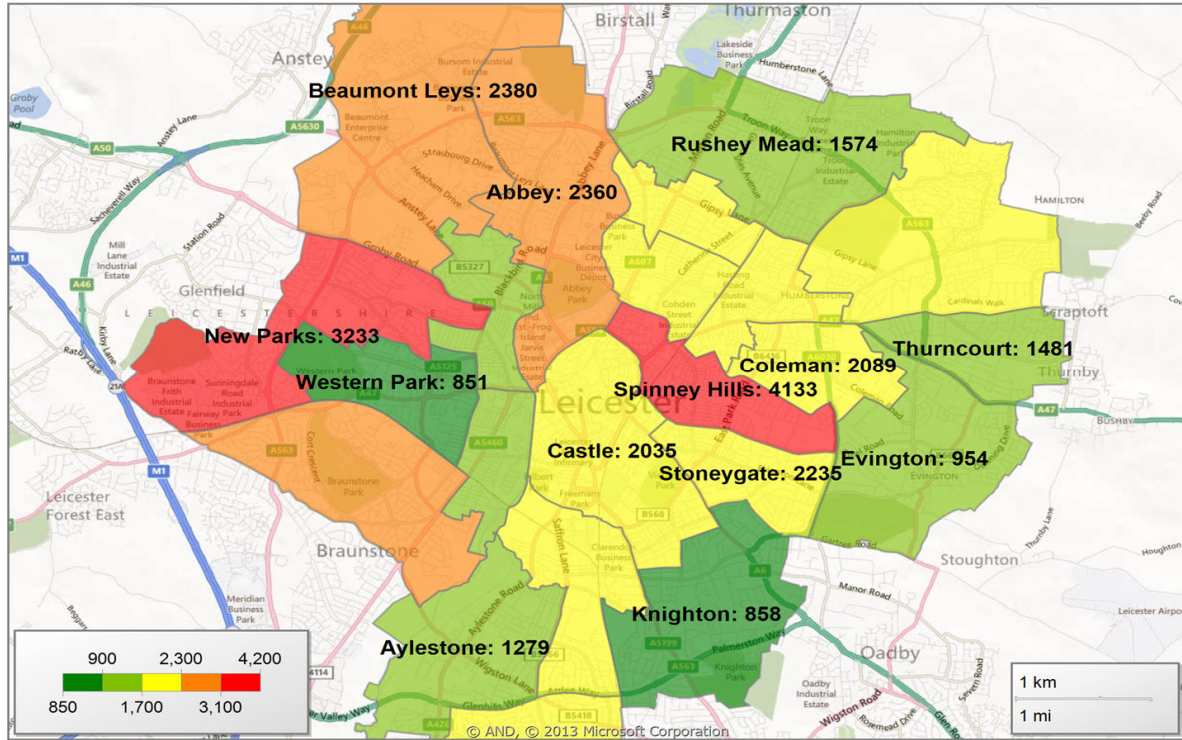
<b>Welfare Reform Time table</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
27 October 2008	Incapacity benefit abolished	Incapacity benefit was abolished and replaced with ESA
January 2012	Changes to Housing Benefit for <35	People under 35 are paid a housing benefit rate synonymous with renting a room in a shared house except in certain circumstances
1 April 2012	Employment and Support Allowance	Entitlement to ESA is reduced to one year only for people in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)
30 April 2012	Youth ESA	Entitlement for young people to claim ESA in the absence of any NI contributions has been abolished
7 January 2013	Child benefit payments cease or reduce	Payments of child benefit cease for people with earnings of £50,000 or £45,000
21 January 2013		New work capability assessment introduced
1 April 2013	Local Housing Allowance linked to CPI	Rates used to calculate HB will be based on the consumer price index which rises at a slower level than local rents.
1 April 2013	Under-occupation penalty ('bedroom tax')	Housing Benefit 'bedroom tax' for social housing tenants is introduced. Housing Benefit will be reduced for working age people who have an extra bedroom under the new rules.
1 April 2013	Council Tax Benefit	Council Tax Benefit is replaced by localised Council Tax Reduction schemes. Each council will run their own scheme. In England, pensioners will be protected, but most other people who used to get full help are likely to have to pay something towards their council tax bill.
1 April 2013	The Social Fund	Parts of the Social Fund will be abolished, including Community Care grants and Crisis Loans. In England, local authorities will be given money to spend on local schemes which could include things like food banks and schemes providing subsidised furniture and white goods.
8 April 2013	Personal Independence Payment	Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is introduced in Cheshire, Cumbria, Merseyside, North East England and North West England. PIP is a new benefit for people who are very ill or disabled and who have trouble getting around or need help with day-to-day living. It will eventually replace Disability Living Allowance
15 April 2013	Benefit Income Cap	The Benefit Cap starts in four local authority areas - Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey. The Benefit Cap means some people of working age will have a limit on the amount of benefit they can get. At first, this will only affect you if you're getting Housing Benefit. Later, it could also affect you if you're getting Universal Credit.

<b>Welfare Reform Time table</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
29 April 2013	Universal Credit	<p>Universal Credit starts in one pilot area - Tameside, in the North of England.</p> <p>Universal Credit is a new single benefit which will replace most means-tested benefits paid to working age people in and out of work.</p> <p>For new claims, couples where one partner is of working age and the other has reached Pension Credit qualifying age will have to claim Universal Credit rather than Pension Credit.</p>
10 June 2013	Personal Independence Payment replaces DLA	No more new claims for DLA will be accepted. You'll have to apply for PIP Instead.
16 July 2013	Access to Work program for disabled people is extended to include new groups	<p>Scheme is amended to include young people and cover apprenticeships and 'academy like training courses.</p> <p>Help is also available for new business start-ups as well.</p>
July 2013 onwards	Universal Credit	Universal Credit starts in three other pilot areas - Wigan, Warrington and Oldham.
15 July 2013	Benefit Income Cap	Benefit Cap national roll-out begins.
September late onwards	Benefit Income Cap	Benefit Cap roll-out completed in all areas.
October 2013	Personal Independence Payments	Reassessment of existing DLA claims for PIP begins for those that report a change in condition or reach the end of an existing award in Wales, East Midlands, West Midlands and parts of East Anglia
April 2014	Help to Work	Claimants returning from the Work Programme will go onto one of three intensive modes of support, determined by JCP advisor
April 2014	Local Housing Allowance	Uprating limited to 1%
October 2015	Personal independence payments	Reassessment of remaining DLA caseload for PIP begins
April 2016	Retirement pension	New single tier pension to be implemented
2017	Universal credit	Every eligible person to be claiming UC

## Appendix B:

Heat map showing the distribution of council tax benefit losses in the city of Leicester.

Data source: Civica OpenRevenues 2013.



**Appendix C:**

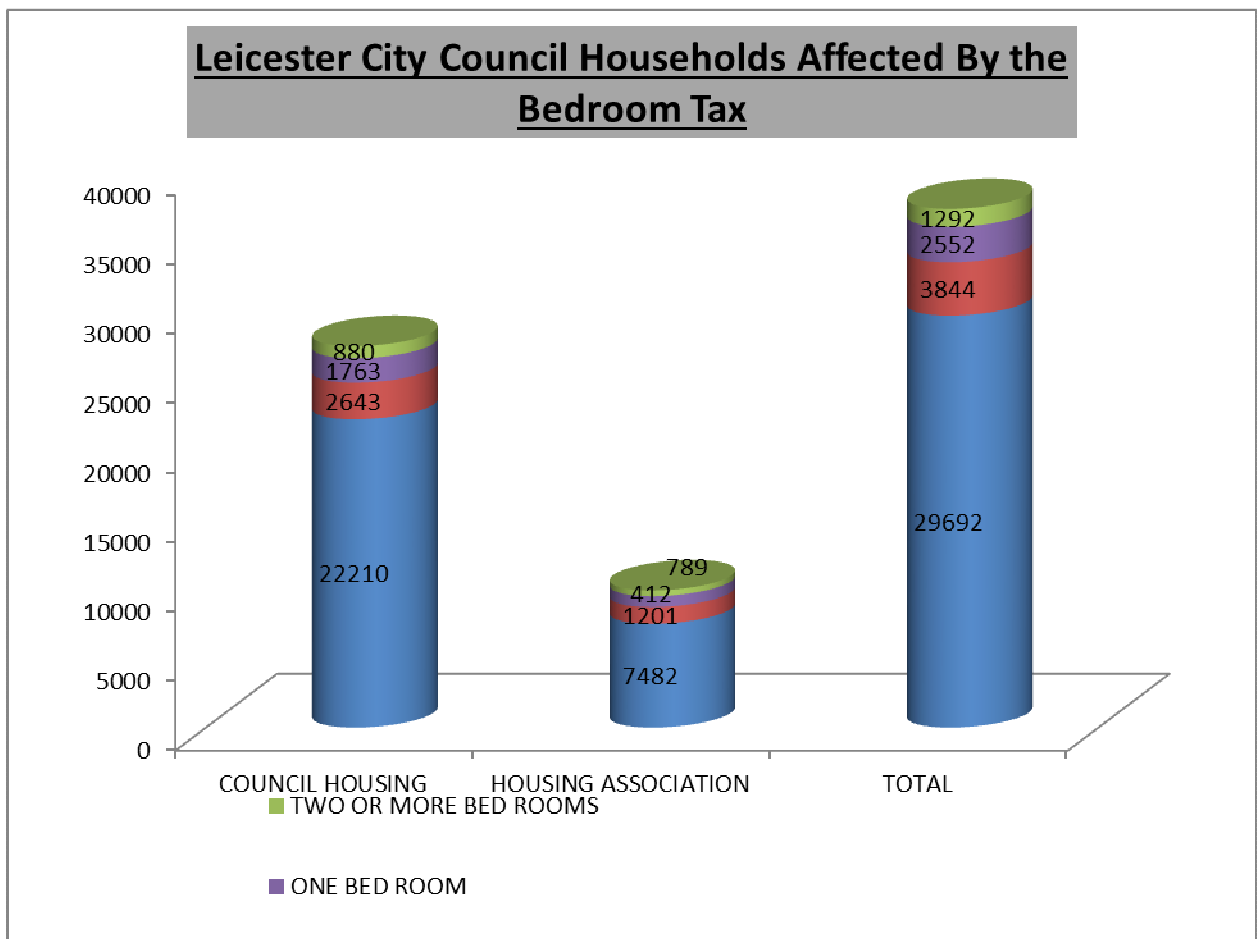
A graph showing the percentage of households within the social housing stock in the City of Leicester affected by the Under-occupancy rule.

Estimated total social housing stock.

% affected where the Housing benefit has been reduced by one room

% affected where the Housing benefit has been reduced by more than one room

Data source: Civica OpenRevenues October 2013.

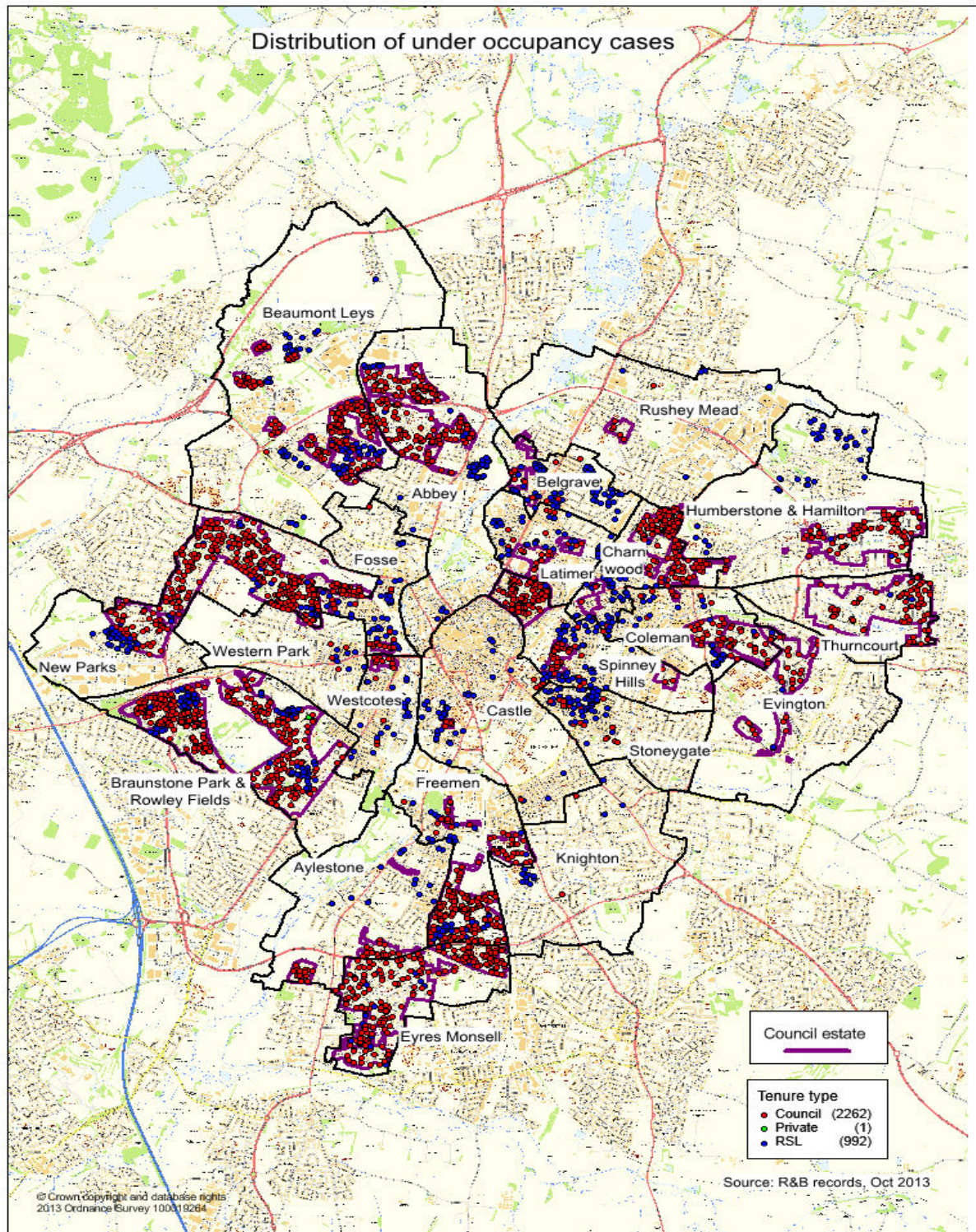




## Appendix D:

A map showing the distribution of households affected by the under-occupancy rule in the City of Leicester by Social Housing provider.

Data source: Civica OpenRevenues as at 30.10.2013



## Appendix E:

### Definitions which apply to a bedroom in council housing stock

What size is a bedroom?

- Section 365 in the Housing Act, 1985, is used to calculate the **maximum** number of people who can live in a property, without causing '**statutory**' overcrowding.
- The Government's Housing Benefit guidance does not take any account at all of the size of a bedroom. A room is either a bedroom or it is not.
- Any room with adequate ventilation and a minimum of 50 sq feet (4.65 sq metres) of floor space can be considered as 'available for use as sleeping accommodation'.

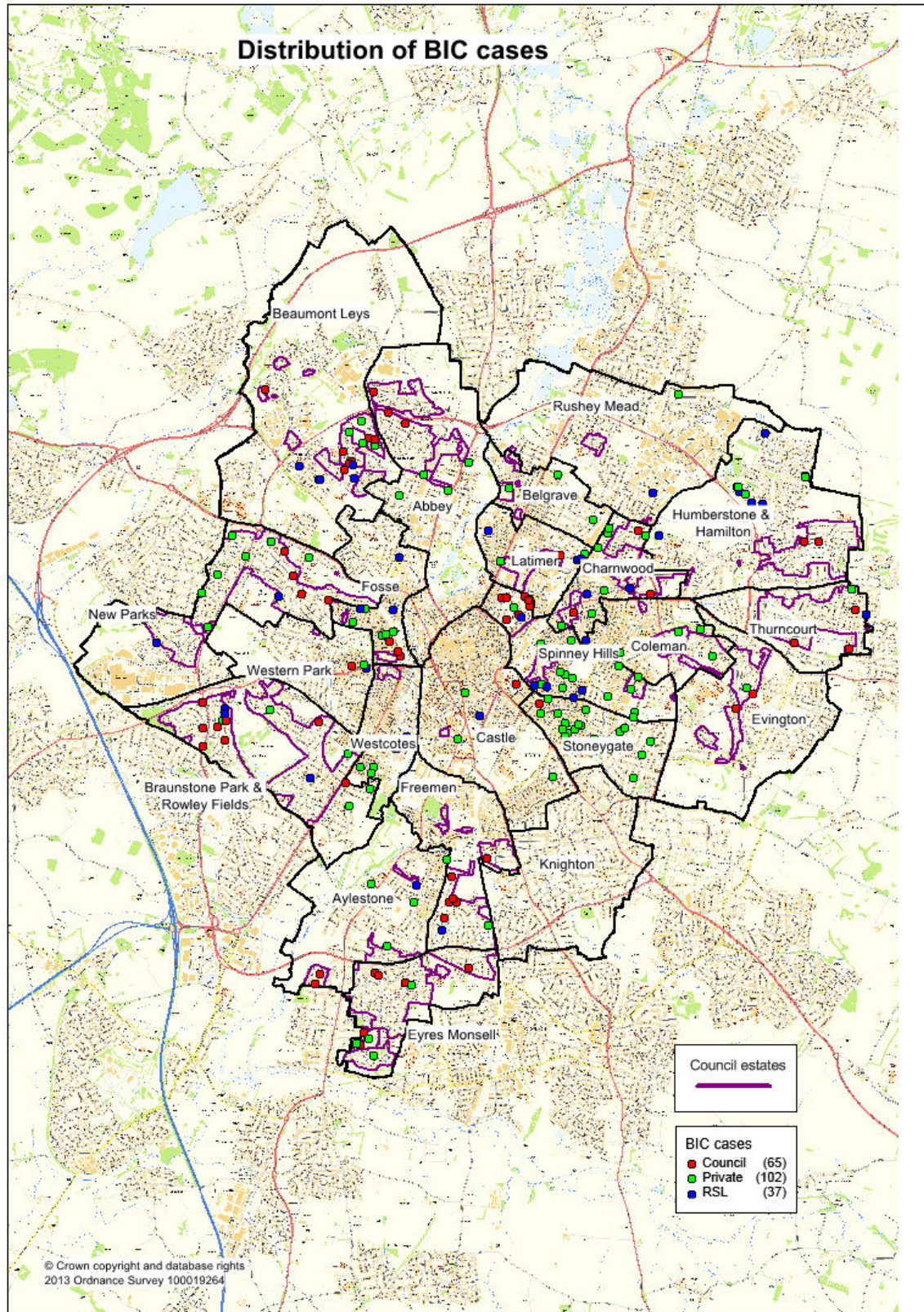
Re-classification of bed rooms occurs when:

- Where significant adaptations to the property have occurred. Such as a through floor lift has been installed.
- Where the accommodation has seen a change to the floor plan.
- If the bedroom size is less than 50 square feet (reference Housing Act 1985) the room will no longer be deemed to be a bedroom. This will be undertaken on a case by case basis and not as a wholesale reclassification exercise.



## Appendix F:

A map showing the distribution of households across the City of Leicester affected by the benefit Income Cap rule, displayed by tenure type.



## Appendix G:

Equality and vulnerability details based on discretionary expenditure from April 2013 to December 2013.

Household Makeup	Total	Profile	HB/ CTDR	CTDR Only	Total
Couple	172	Care Leaver upto 22 years old	0	0	0
Couple with children	175	Dependent child 5 or under/IS case	75	1	76
Lone parent	347	Disabled Adult with carer	25	3	28
Single	906	DLA middle/high rate	126	14	140
Pensioner	12	Domestic Violence	23	1	24
		Drug/Alcohol dependency	23	1	24
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total</b>	ESA with Support component	274	32	306
Asian - Bangladeshi	9	Extreme Financial Hardship	900	38	938
Asian - Indian	121	Foster Carer	2	1	3
Asian - Pakistani	17	Foster Carer not fostering	0	0	0
Black - African	48	Hostel leaver with support	12	0	12
Black - Caribbean	36	Hostel leaver without support	9	1	10
Black - Other	41	Provide Care	47	4	51
Chinese	1				
Mixed - Other	8				
Mixed - White & Asian	10				
Mixed - White & Black African	6				
Mixed - White & Black Caribbean	34				
Unknown	386				
White - Other	43				
White British	845				
White Irish	7				
<b>Disability</b>	<b>Total</b>				
Yes	388				
No	1224				



## Appendix H:

A table detailing the Job Centre Plus adverse decision (sanction) regime from October 2012.

### Changes overview

Applicable to:	ESA Claimants in the Work Related Activity Group	JSA Claimants	JSA Claimants	JSA Claimants	
<b>Sanction Level</b>	<b>Low Level</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure/refusal to attend any mandatory Interview</li> <li>• Failure/refusal to undertake Work Related Activity</li> </ul>	<b>Lower Level</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure/refusal to attend adviser interview,</li> <li>• Failure/refusal to participate in employment programme or training scheme</li> <li>• Failure/refusal to comply with Jobseeker direction,</li> <li>• Neglect to avail of place on programme or training course,</li> <li>• Refusal, failure to attend or loses through misconduct a place on a programme or training course</li> </ul>	<b>Intermediate Level</b> <p>Only following a disallowance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not being available for work</li> <li>• not actively seeking work</li> </ul>	<b>Higher Level</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaving a job voluntarily</li> <li>• Losing a job through misconduct</li> <li>• Refusal/failure to apply for, or accept if offered, a suitable job</li> <li>• Refusal/failure to participate in mandatory work activity</li> </ul>	
<b>Pre UC</b>	Open ended until re-engagement followed by				
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Failure</b>		1 week	4 weeks	4 weeks	13 weeks
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Failure</b>		2 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	26 weeks
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Failure</b>	4 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	156 weeks	
<b>Current Sanction regime</b>	Open-ended 50% of WRAG component for first 4 weeks, then 100% of WRAG component	1, 2, 4 or 26 weeks	Disallowance but no sanction	Variable 1 – 26 weeks	
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## Appendix: I

**Department for Works and Pension: Adverse decision making (Sanction) data.  
Statistical information published 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

<b>Total number of Job Seekers Allowance adverse decisions decided by the Job Centre Plus between the dates: Oct 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.</b>		
<b>National picture (numbers by the thousand)</b>		
Low	Intermediate	High
227,000	167,000	48,000
<b>Leicester, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire</b>		
Low	Intermediate	High
17,900	5,600	5,490

<b>Total number of Job Seekers Allowance adverse decisions decided by the Job Centre Plus between the dates: Oct 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.</b>										
<b>Reported Monthly from October 2012 to June 2013.</b>										
<b>JCP location</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Leicester Charles St	100	290	230	210	130	140	230	280	240	<b>1,840</b>
Leicester Eldon Street	0	10	0	10	0	10	10	10	10	<b>50</b>
Leicester New Walk	60	180	170	120	60	70	140	170	130	<b>1,100</b>
Leicester Wellington St	130	270	230	200	110	110	150	200	180	<b>1,580</b>
<b>Total</b>										<b>4,570</b>

### **Employment Support Allowance statistical information.**

Nationally 45,000 sanction decisions were applied over the period Oct 12 to June 13.

- Of these 71% of the decisions related to the work related activity group
- Of these 45,000 adverse decisions **250 decisions** were applied in the city of Leicester.

**Appendix J:**

<b>Table showing the number of clients seen at advice centres in the city of Leicester reporting adverse decisions between the dates April 2013 and September 2013 in the City.</b>						
	<b>April – June 2013</b>			<b>July – Oct 2013</b>		
<b>Benefit sanctioned</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
JSA	Data not collected			40	50	80%
ESA				9		18%
IS				1		2%
<b>Duration of sanction</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
2-6 weeks	17	23	74	24	45	56%
7-12 weeks	0		0	0		0%
13-25 weeks	4		18	15		33%
26 weeks+	2		9	1		2%
Open ended/indefinite				4		9%
Unknown/incomplete				5		
<b>Sanction level</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Low	18	21		33	47	70%
Intermediate	3		11	23%		
High	0		3	6%		
Unknown/incomplete			3			
<b>Income lost during sanction period</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
£0-£199	-	24	-	9	47	19%
£200-£499	16		66%	21		45%
£500-£999	6		25%	15		32%
£1000-£3000	2		8%	2		4%
Unknown	-			3		