



COUNCIL - 8TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: ANSWER TO QUESTION RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Housing Benefits - to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Councillor Mrs A. Blackman

1. Can the Cabinet Member tell us the number of Housing and Council Tax Benefits claims there are in the financial year 2015/16?
2. How many of them are for Housing Benefit?
3. How many of them are for Council Tax Benefit?
4. For the financial year 15/16 how much will Council receive from the Department of Work and Pensions to cover the cost of these benefits?
5. At present, how many council tax payers are there across Caerphilly County Borough?
6. At present, what percentages of Council Tax payers are receiving Council Tax Benefit?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES - COUNCILLOR MRS B. JONES

1. The current number of live claims are 19,576
2. There are currently 14,203 Housing Benefit live claims (6,574 Private tenants and 7,629 Council tenants)
3. There are currently 19,046 Council Tax Reduction live claims
4. For the financial year 2014/15 the council received £60.5 million in subsidy to cover the cost of Housing Benefit payments. The total cost for 2015/16 will not be known until the final claim is made in April 2016.

With regards to Council Tax Reduction we do not receive subsidy to cover this from the Department of Work and Pensions. Instead, we receive a grant from Welsh Government which is incorporated within the RSG. For 2015/16 Caerphilly received £13.7 million.

5. To date there are 78,646 Council Tax payers in Caerphilly.
6. 24.2% Council Tax payers in Caerphilly receive Council Tax Reduction.