

Certification of claims and returns: Update

At the February Audit Committee we presented our certification of claims and returns report. The report included details of our Housing Benefit subsidy work. Certification Instruction BEN01 and the associated HBCOUNT approach requires auditors to extrapolate and report to the Department any overpayments that have been identified. We are not required to extrapolate errors which result in the underpayment of benefits.

Members requested we extrapolate the underpayments identified during our testing. This extrapolation is detailed in the table below:

Cell No.	Benefit Type	Error Type	Extrapolated error
55	Rent Rebates	Incorrect calculation/documentation of income	£70,931.63
55	Rent Rebates	Non-dependents income	£26,562.84
94	Rent Allowance	Calculation and evidencing of self-employed income	£13,969.60
94	Rent Allowance	Incorrect capital information used	£33,693.38
Total potential underpayment			£145, 157.45

Total value of claim	£192,826,666
Total Potential overpayment as percentage of total value of claim	0.08%

Due to the nature of the administration of benefits, the high volume of manual input into the benefits system and the complexity of the rules and regulations governing various allowances and rebates, it is common for errors, both overpayments and underpayments, to be identified in our certification work.

Should you require any further information on this document or on any other aspect of our work, please contact:

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