

“There was an error in the way we processed the administrative data to produce the original set of National Statistics publications on tax credits up to December 2005.

This led to overstatements of between 8 and 13 per cent in the originally published estimates of the average help with childcare costs provided to families benefiting from the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. Such estimates appear at Tables 4.4 and 8.3 in each of the snapshot publications from July 2003 to December 2005, and at Table 2.4 in the publication covering finalised 2003-04 awards. The estimates for couples were particularly affected; those for lone parents much less so.

For December 2005, an associated error resulted in a 2.5 per cent understatement in the originally published estimate of average childcare costs for this date.

The publications affected were replaced on 24 March 2006 with updated documents containing the corrected estimates.

HMRC much regrets any inconvenience caused to the users of our statistics by this error. No other figures in publications were affected.

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