



HM Revenue  
& Customs

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[Redacted]

18 June 2018

Dear Nicky,

I wrote to you on 25 May setting out the information that HMRC would be able to provide in relation to your request for Child Benefit statistics which we received on 18 May.

As I set out in my letter, prior to 2003 Child Benefit was administered by the Department for Social Security (until 2001) and the Department for Work and Pensions (after 2001). We asked analysts at the DWP to investigate whether they still hold any relevant datasets prior to 2003. They have advised that this data is no longer held in either electronic or hard copy format. Unfortunately it is therefore not possible to fulfil your requests in relation to the years prior to 2003.

With regard to the data held by HMRC, and in accordance with my letter of 25 May, the first batch of analysis has been carried out and the relevant tables are contained in the associated Excel workbook sent with this letter. The workbook contains:

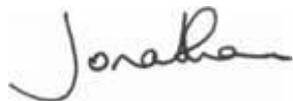
Table 1: A time series showing the total number (stock) of families registered for Child Benefit by gender of claimant from August 2010 onwards. The total has been divided into those families receiving Child Benefit, and those who have opted out of Child Benefit payments following the introduction of the High Income Child Benefit Charge (HICBC) in 2013.

Table 2: A time series since the High Income Child Benefit Charge was introduced showing by gender the number of parents or carers of children under 12 who have made a new Child Benefit application, but have opted out of Child Benefit payments.

I am happy to respond to any questions you may have on the statistics supplied. I will write again in early July to fulfil the remainder of your request.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long tail on the 'n'.

**JON THOMPSON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND PERMANENT SECRETARY**