



VALUE OF INCOME SUPPORT RATES PER WEEK COMPARED WITH THE FAMILY BUDGET UNIT'S LOW COST BUT ACCEPTABLE BUDGETS

In the following tables the most recent low cost but acceptable budget standards derived by the FBU are compared with the Income Support scales payable to the same families.

The low cost but acceptable budget is for a family with no earners. It excludes alcohol expenditure, expenditure on rent and council tax (on the grounds that these are paid in addition to Income Support). All budgets exclude expenses associated with working and seeking work. The food element of the budget is less than for a working family on the assumption that the family claims their entitlement to free school meals and welfare foods and the value of these is not added to the Income Support rates. The low cost but acceptable budgets derived at February 2001 (Parker 2001) were uprated by movements in the RPI less housing costs between then and April 2002. The April 2002 budgets for York were derived as part of the work necessary to produce (for UNISON) a low cost but acceptable budget for families in Wales (Parker 2002 forthcoming)

East end of London budgets February 2001

Lone parent plus two children under 11	Income Support	Low cost but acceptable budget	Shortfall
February 2001	£119.95	£126.37	-£6.42
April 2002	£135.70	£129.53	+£6.17

East end of London budgets February 2001

Couple plus two children under 11	Income Support	Low cost but acceptable budget	Shortfall
February 2001	£149.90	£158.16	-£8.26
April 2002	£166.40	£162.11	+£4.29

York budgets April 2002

Lone parent plus two children under 11	Income Support	Low cost but acceptable budget	Shortfall
April 2002	£135.70	£129.12	+£6.58

York budgets April 2002

Couple plus two children under 11	Income Support	Low cost but acceptable budget	Shortfall
April 2002	£166.40	£163.30	+£3.10

References

Parker, H. (2001) *Low cost but acceptable: A minimum income standard for households with children in London's East End*. FBU/UNISON.

Parker, H. (2002) *Low cost but acceptable: A minimum income standard for households with children in Wales*. FBU/UNISON

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