

## COUNTRY FACT SHEET ON RBs: UNITED KINGDOM

| UNITED KINGDOM             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                            | 1990                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1994                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1997                                                                                                                                                                             | 2008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Name                       | FBU modest but adequate budget                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Loughborough consensual budget standards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | FBU low costs budget                                                                                                                                                             | A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Year of first construction | 1990                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1994                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1997                                                                                                                                                                             | 2008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| State of use               | Not in use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Not in use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Not in use                                                                                                                                                                       | In use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Key moments                | 1985: Group of social scientists form the family budget unit.<br>1987: Papers published<br>1989-1990: Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded research project at the University of York on budget standards, results published.<br>1993: Final Report. | 1987: The consensual budget standards (CBS) method developed in the 1990s at CRSP took a similar approach to the FBU, but, instead of panels of professional experts, ordinary people representing different family or household types were brought together to form budget standards committees considering minimum needs. | 1998: Hermione Parker begins to publish a series of low costs budgets based on funding from Trade Union UNISON and voluntary body Age Concern as follows                         | 2006: The Joseph Rowntree Foundation decided to support a joint project by the FBU in York and CRSP to bring together the approaches of RB2 and RB3. The first results published in 2008. From 2009 onwards, JRF has supported CRSP to update the budgets annually, with regular reviews and rebases of the content of the budgets, every two years from 2010. |
| Geographical focus         | - Entire country                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | - Entire country                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | - Entire country                                                                                                                                                                 | Initially GB (not including Northern Ireland), subsequently whole of UK. Separate studies for rural England and for remote rural Scotland                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Data used                  | - Household budget data<br>- (Inter) national or regional guidelines<br>- Focus group decisions<br>- Expert knowledge<br>- Breadline Britain surveys<br>- Market research survey                                                                  | - Focus group decisions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | - Household budget data<br>- (Inter) national or regional guidelines<br>- Focus group decisions<br>- Expert knowledge<br>- Breadline Britain surveys<br>- Market research survey | - Focus group decisions<br>- Expert knowledge (nutritionist, domestic fuel expert, motoring expert)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Household types            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                  | Single & partnered pensioners, single & partnered working age adults without children.<br>Partnered parents with 1-4 children, lone parent families with 1-3 children. There are                                                                                                                                                                               |

|                       |      |     |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------|------|-----|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |      |     |      | budgets for 4 different ages of children: 0-23 months, 2-4 years, 5-11 years and 12-18 years. The budgets for individuals can be combined into over 100 different configurations to take account of numbers and ages of children living with lone or partnered parents. Further work being conducted in 2018 is researching household budgets for non-dependent children aged 20-30 living at home with working age parents. |
| Institutions involved |      |     |      | CRSP at Loughborough University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Key publications      |      |     |      | See below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Updates               |      |     |      | Every July                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Last update           | 1993 | n/a | 1998 | July 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Reference: EU Platform on Reference Budgets (2018). Country fact sheet on reference budgets in United Kingdom, December, 2018, Antwerp: EPRB.

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