

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: IR 782

30.10.2013

Dear Mr Hilton,

Further to your Freedom of Information (VTR 4543) request received on 23rd September 2013 to which we have provided a response you requested further clarification. You asked:-

You gave a list of all the two-letter prefixes which are currently used or scheduled to be used, but I have no way of knowing which have actually been used and which haven't. Could you provide a list of the prefixes which are scheduled to be used, but have not yet actually been used to issue new NINOs?

Although you didn't specifically answer question 5 (about the single-letter suffixes used) it's clear from one of the documents you have referenced (and your reply itself) that only A, B, C, D are valid suffixes (although F, M and P were used for temporary numbers). Could you confirm that this is correct?

And could you tell me how the single-letter suffix is actually allocated when creating a new NINo? E.g. is it random, or is there some method for working it out? (I realise that this wasn't part of my original request, but it does save me having to make another one, and it would be much appreciated.)

DWP Response:

Question 1:

You gave a list of all the two-letter prefixes which are currently used or scheduled to be used, but I have no way of knowing which have actually been used and which haven't. Could you provide a list of the prefixes which are scheduled to be used, but have not yet actually been used to issue new NINOs?

The next pre-fixes due to be used are SS, ST, SX SY and SZ. The use of a new pre-fix will commence on the expiry of the prior pre-fix as this is dependant upon the number of NINOs allocated we cannot provide specific dates. We do not have the information relating to which prefixes will be used beyond those mentioned.

Question 2:

Although you didn't specifically answer question 5 (about the single-letter suffixes used) it's clear from one of the documents you have referenced (and your reply itself) that only A, B, C, D are valid suffixes (although F, M and P were used for temporary numbers). Could you confirm that this is correct?

Yes, only A, B, C and D are valid suffixes for National Insurance numbers.

Question 3:

And could you tell me how the single-letter suffix is actually allocated when creating a new NI No? E.g. is it random, or is there some method for working it out? (I realise that this wasn't part of my original request, but it does save me having to make another one, and it would be much appreciated.)

The suffixes A, B, C and D are used in rotation.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.gov.uk