

**Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)  
Central Freedom of Information Team**

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

**Our reference:** VTR 3506 & 3508

**Date:** 8 September 2015

Dear Quy Thi Pham

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on 22 August 2015 insert date. You asked

*I currently receive Personal Independence Payment and would like to go on a holiday abroad with my family.*

*I understand that to continue to claim PIP; you can travel abroad for up to 13 weeks (for non medical reasons) - is this 13 consecutive weeks or a total of 13 weeks for the whole year?*

*Furthermore, do I have to report that I am travelling abroad to DWP if it is less than 13 weeks; i.e. even if it is for only one day.*

One of the qualifying conditions for entitlement for Personal Independence Payment is that the Residence and Presence conditions continue to be satisfied. One of these conditions is that you are present in Great Britain. The exception to this rule is, where the absence is considered to be temporary, the first 13 weeks of that absence is treated as if you are still in Great Britain. Temporary absence is where it is expected that the absence when it started was unlikely to exceed 52 weeks.

The 13 week absence period is a consecutive week calculation.

Within your Personal Independence Payment award notification we ask you tell us if:

- *you leave or intend to leave the country for more than 4 weeks (even for a holiday of more than 4 weeks).*

We do this to allow us to pick up claimants periods of absence to ensure that they continue to satisfy the past presence test of being present in GB for 105 weeks in the previous 156.

Further information regarding PIP Residence and Presence conditions can be found at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/265395/admc2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265395/admc2.pdf)

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

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**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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, 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.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745