

Our Ref: IR 37 & IR 70 & FoI 900**Date:** 9 March 2018

Dear Mr Collins,

Thank you for your Internal Review requests received on 22nd January (IR37) and 8th February (IR70). An internal review of both requests has been carried out by someone of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your original requests. I am now in a position to respond to you.

In review request IR37 you said:

*Dear Department for Work and Pensions,
Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.*

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Backpayment figures for SDP on conversion IB to ESA'.

You have delayed further to your message you were to come back within 20 days of 4th November 2017 as you treated request as made from that date.

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding; we didn't receive your initial request. We did receive this internal review request on 4th November 2017, so we have treated your request as made from that date.

FoI Reference: 5091 & IR 554 & 623

It is our internal target to answer reviews within 20 working days unless I need to come back to you to clarify your request, or the balance of the public interest test needs to be considered which we will keep you informed about.

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

Yours sincerely

DWP Strategy FoI Team

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/backpayment_figures_for_sdp_on_c

DWP Response

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed by someone unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result I can advise that as our response was provided outside of the statutory time limits, your request for review is upheld.

In review request IR70 you said:

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Backpayment figures for SDP on conversion IB to ESA'.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act requires you to provide advice and assistance to help you to make a request that does fall within the costs limits.

As you state you hold arrears payment figures but they are not broken down by benefit

Please just supply number of backpayments made years

2012,2013,2014,2015,2016,2017 into 5 bracketed amounts of

£0 to £5,000,

£5,000 to £10,000,

£10,000 to £15,000

£15000 to £20,000

and £20000 plus for each year

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/backpayment_figures_for_sdp_on_c

DWP Response

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed by someone unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result I can advise that your request for review is not upheld.

In review request IR70 you asked a new question so this has been recorded as a new Freedom of Information request.

In Fol 900 you said:

Please just supply number of backpayments made years

2012,2013,2014,2015,2016,2017 into 5 bracketed amounts of

*£0 to £5,000,
£5,000 to £10,000,
£10,000 to £15,000
£15000 to £20,000
and £20000 plus for each year*

DWP Response

The information you have requested is not available within the appropriate costs limit. Information on arrears is only extracted for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), but is restricted to aggregate amounts paid out across all ESA arrears payments nationally and does not help to answer your latest or previous question concerning numbers of back-payments for official error on conversion of Incapacity Benefit to ESA.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

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