

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: Fol 677

Date: 15 March 2018

Dear Kerry Michael Levins Esq,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 19 February 2018. You asked:

"I would be keen to receive statistical data relating to the number of PIP (formerly DLA) and ESA (formerly IB) claims made, the number of these claims which are approved / agreed and the number which are declined / rejected. Furthermore the number of cases by time frame which have been appealed and the number of appeals which resulting in a decision being over turned and / or an award upgraded. If possible this data should be presented by month of decision or appeal, since 1st January 2001".

DWP Response

We can confirm that we hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit for central Government, set by regulations at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Under section 16 of the Act we are required to assist you in narrowing your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. Once you have reviewed the information below you may wish to narrow your request by specifying a suitable time period date that is in line with the published Official Statistics (see below). We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

The Department publishes official statistics on recipients of various benefits including Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit (IB) here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics> with the latest 'Quarterly Benefit Summary' available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-benefits-statistical-summaries-2018>

Further breakdowns of some of these statistics including PIP monthly clearances by type (i.e. whether a claim was awarded or disallowed) can also be found on our Stat-Xplore website here: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract the information required from Stat-Xplore can be found at: <https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Getting-Started.html>

If you have any difficulties extracting the relevant information please let us know.

Statistics on recipients of a wide range of DWP benefits including DLA, ESA and IB are also published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and can be accessed via their NOMIS website at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Information on the benefits can be found in the 'Query data' section. If you have any difficulties extracting the relevant information then contact details for ONS can be found here: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/contacts.asp>

Official Statistics on the number of appeals and the numbers over-turned by benefit type are published by the Ministry of Justice on a quarterly basis. The latest data was published in December 2017 in "Tribunals and gender recognition certificate statistics quarterly – July to September 2017". Tables SSCS.1 shows the number of appeals received, SSCS.2 shows the number of appeal disposals and SSCS.3 shows the outcomes for appeals cleared at hearing. The data can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2017>

PIP which replaces DLA was introduced on 8 April 2013. ESA was introduced in October 2008.

I will consider afresh any revised request however I cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

Please note that if I do not receive appropriate clarification within three months from the date of this letter your request will be treated as closed.

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 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, 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