

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2019-11860

4 April 2019

Dear Martin Williams,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 21 March 2019.

You asked:

“Please disclose:

The number of new claims for contributory employment and support allowance, resulting in awards, were made for each of the months of January and February for each of the following years:

- 1. 2016.**
- 2. 2017.**
- 3. 2018.**
- 4. 2019.”**

We can confirm that we hold 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 should assist the requester in helping narrow their request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. In this instance we would recommend that you might want to consider restricting your request to the dates which align to the published statistics (see below). We will consider afresh any revised request, however, we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

You may be interested to know that the Department publishes Official Statistics on ESA Claimant counts on a quarterly basis via the Stat-Xplore website. These figures can also be broken down by payment type, including for those receiving contribution based ESA. Stat-Xplore can be accessed through the following link: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract the information required 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.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us 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.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 <https://ico.org.uk/>