

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: VTR 1772

DATE 01 May 2013

Dear Mr Reynolds

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 14 April. You asked;

1. Can you please state how much the " £71.00 that the law says you need to live on", as a percentage of the average national wage now?
2. Can you state what the "law said you needed to live on", as a percentage of the average wage in 2005?
3. If the percentage difference has been seen to shrink between these dates, can you explain why?
4. Please show the comparison of inflation as a percentage of average national wage of 2005 and present?
5. Please try to justify the real loss of benefit, in real terms, between 2005 and present?
6. Explain how the theory of assessing the the amount the law said you needed to live on in 2005 has changed to the present level?
7. What is the present level that the law says you need to live on, as a percentage of the amount you were awarded in 2005?

In relation to the questions you have raised, I can confirm that the Department holds no recorded information to answer your questions.

It may help if I explain that the Freedom of Information Act requires public authorities to provide copies of information they already hold in a recorded form, subject to certain exemptions. However, it does not require the Department to provide opinions, explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

You may be interested in the most recent published data on the Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, National Insurance Contributions, and Indices of Prices and Earnings:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/abstract/abstract2011.pdf>

The Abstract of Statistics is an annual publication that aims to provide a reference source for users interested in the main aspects of Benefits and Indices of Prices and earnings

The 'Data Sources' section of these tables shows that the earnings related data is sourced from the Office for National Statistics and there may be more up-to-date information available via their website official website of labour market statistics [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

Please note that the responsibility for these statistics lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Information on how to submit a freedom of information request to ONS can be found via this link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/FOI/how-to-make-a-foi-request/index.html>

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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)