

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 1223

DATE 14 March 2013

Dear Geoffrey Reynolds,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 13 March. You asked for:-

Lots of my correspondence from your department, carry the quote, "this is the amount the law says you need to live on".

1/ Can you please tell me which law this applies to?

2/ £71.00 is stated, how was this arrived at?

3/ When was it last updated to reflect rising prices?

4/ Has an exercise ever been done to quantify that the figure of £71.00 can sustain a human being?

5/ Does the Welfare Reform Act reduce the amount of money that was necessary to live on, as deduced in the pre-existing law?

6/ Can you please point out which section/act of the Welfare Reform Act lays down statute that allows the £71.00 to be further eroded in value?

7/ Has the £71.00 been capped in any way or is it to be upgraded in line with rising living costs?

8/ Could the reduction in the value of the £71.00 be interpreted as a breach of human rights given that the value of the pound is falling and the cost of living is rising?

You can expect a reply by 12 April unless I need to come back to you to clarify your request or the balance of the public interest test needs to be considered.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me 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@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.gov.uk