

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR IR 311

DATE: 22 April 2013

Dear Geoffrey Reynolds,

I am writing in response to your review request received on 03 April. An internal review has been carried out by someone of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your original request. I am now in a position to respond to you. In your review request you said:

*As usual you have not answered any of my questions.*

*In relation to;*

*1/ None of the statutes that you mention, state the "amount the law says you need to live on".*

*2/ You fail to define how £71.00 is arrived at.*

*3/ You have failed to answer when it was updated to reflect rising prices.*

*4/ You state "we believe the amounts are reasonable".  
Please quantify why you believe, given that updating has not been done to reflect rising prices and lowering of the value of sterling.*

*5/ Your answer is a lie. The welfare reform act has reduced the income.*

*6/ You have not indicated where the welfare reform act states that the £71.00 can be eroded further.*

*7/ Answered*

*8/ You state the amount is compatible. This means you have information to hand. Please indicate the compatibility within the human rights act.*

Having concluded my review, I am satisfied that we responded correctly to your request for information relating to questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. In response to your request for further clarification:

#### Question 1 and 2

I refer you to Regulations 79 and 82 in the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996. These set out in 1996 the amount that an individual would need to live on, and that figure has been uprated each year by the Up-rating Order:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a11-4001.pdf>

Information on the amount payable can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/18/section/4>

#### Question 8

The European Convention of Human Rights does not give an automatic right to receive benefit. Where a State does provide benefits, there is no right to a particular amount. The Government has set the rate of benefits at an amount that it believes to be reasonable, and to ensure that no individual suffers destitution. This is compatible with the Convention.

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)