



Digital Group - Parliamentary Business

Department
for Work &
Pensions

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Sent by e-mail

Date: 20 March 2018

Ref No: FOI 686

Dear Ms Christison,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 20th February 2018. You asked for:-

I would like to request aggregated counts of individuals registered with a National Insurance Number under the Social Security Act 1948 for 2011 from the DWP Customer Information System. I would like this information in a table format with counts of individuals in each Datazone in Scotland (2001 boundaries), based up postcode, by 5 year age groups (16-29, 30-44, etc). As these would be aggregated counts of the population, there does not need to be any disclosure on confidential information such as name, postcode etc. If numbers would become so small that data is made identifiable for older age groups, counts can be for a 65+ age band.

DWP Response:

The Customer Information System does hold information for individuals who have registered for a National Insurance Number, however the information requested is not readily available and a scan would need to be commissioned to obtain the information and output in the requested format. The cost of commissioning a scan to obtain the information requested would exceed the appropriate limit therefore we are unable to comply with this request.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated costs of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Departments hold the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request.

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we should assist you with your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. However, in this instance narrowing your search is likely to produce the same results as, for example, obtaining the volume of National Insurance Number Records held on the Customer Information System in 2010 alone would require a bespoke scan to be commissioned which would exceed the appropriate limit.

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

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours,

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you can ask for an internal review by emailing freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be sent within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

