

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: Fol 922

Date: 06 April 2018

Dear Mr Collins,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 9th March. You asked:

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

Further to your reply to

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/440756/response/1124554/attach/2/Fol%20IR%2037%20IR%2070%20Fol%20900%20Reply.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

"Information on arrears is only extracted for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), but is restricted to aggregate amounts paid out across all ESA arrears payments nationally"

Please supply this extracted information and figures

Yours faithfully,

Anthony Collins

DWP Response

A table of annual ESA arrears expenditure since 2011-12 is provided below. This data covers arrears actually paid, and does not include those still owed. Arrears can be made for a range of reasons, including a change of claimant circumstances.

Arrears amounts by detailed type cannot be separated out from the total arrears expenditure within the appropriate costs limit.

| <i>Figures rounded to nearest thousand</i> | ESA Arrears Expenditure ('000's) |
|--|---|
| 2011-12 | £ 217,100 |
| 2012-13 | £ 276,854 |
| 2013-14 | £ 411,010 |
| 2014-15 | £ 516,231 |
| 2015-16 | £ 561,324 |
| 2016-17 | £ 433,536 |

Source: DWP Central Payment System

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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.gsi.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
www.ico.gov.uk