



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Sheila Telford
request-945783-
030a4eaa@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: FOI2023/09589

06 March 2023

Dear Sheila Telford,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 6 February. You wrote:

“Please may I know the number of people receiving British state pensions in

1. Canada
2. Australia
3. New Zealand
4. South Africa
5. India
6. Japan
7. U.S.A
8. EU”

DWP Response

We can confirm that we hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 12 of the Fol Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further. The reason being we are unable to provide the most recent information requested for those receiving State Pension (SP) due to the systems used. SP is administered across two different systems, the Pension Strategy Computer System (PSCS) and Get Your State Pension (GYSP), with GYSP now handling a sizeable proportion of new claims. As GYSP data is not yet fully available for analysis we are unable to produce recent figures for the information you have requested within the cost limit.

Under Section 16 of the Fol Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit as each Fol request is judged on its own merits.

We feel that you should narrow your request to ask for the number of people living abroad and claiming State Pension, by country, for the latest time period available, currently the end of November 2020. If you want more recent information then you can ask for the number living abroad for the latest time period available, currently end of August 2022, however this is not available by country.

Were you to narrow your request to either of these options, Section 21 of the Fol Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

For your information, the Department regularly publishes [statistics](#) on the number of people receiving State Pension. Quarterly figures from May 2018 to November 2020 can be found on the [Stat-Xplore website](#) and this data includes a breakdown of 'abroad' and the country of residence.

You can log in or access [Stat-Xplore](#) as a guest user and, if needed, you can access [guidance](#) on how to extract the information required. If you have any difficulties extracting the relevant information, please let us know.

You may be interested to know that quarterly figures from November 2020 to August 2022 can be found in the supplementary data tables of the [latest publication](#) and a breakdown of recipients by region, including the grouping of 'abroad', is shown in Table 6 of the [supplementary tables](#).

We are developing new statistical datasets to properly represent both computer systems. Once we have quality assured the new data it will be published on Stat-Xplore, including a refresh of historical data using the best data available.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, 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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.