

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2020/24075

02 June 2020

Dear David Taylor,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 15 May. You asked:

*Why are carers who claim carers allowance of 67.25 in England. That you claim off universal credit treated differently with regards to the carers if Scotland and Ireland. This is racist. Scottish carers get 10.00 extra, for the same criteria of carers allowance along with 2 extra payments of 230.00 throughout the year. Irish carers get a whole lot more. Yet the criteria is the same. Why are we being paid less for the same requirement of hours. Than those. That is incredibly racist against the carers of England.*

**DWP Response:**

I confirm that we hold the recorded information to respond to your request.

The current rate of Carer's Allowance is £67.25 per week. Carers have access to the full range of social security benefits according to their circumstances. Since 2010, the rate of Carer's Allowance has increased from £53.90 to £67.25 a week, meaning an additional £694 a year for carers. Income replacement benefits help people and households on lower incomes, and can include a carer premium, currently £37.50 a week. An equivalent additional amount applies in Pension Credit. Universal Credit also includes a carer element at the rate of £162.92 per monthly assessment period. These amounts recognise the additional contribution and responsibilities associated with caring and mean that lower-income carers can receive more money than others who receive these benefits.

Support for carers provided directly by the Scottish Government, or by the Republic of Ireland Government, are not matters for the government of the United Kingdom.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol 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@dwg.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwg.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  
Web: [ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745