

To Mr I Davies
C/o request-120747-880d501c@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: 3512-2608

DATE 30 July 2012

Dear Mr Davies,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that was received by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Freedom of Information (Fol) requests on 1 July 2012 and forwarded on 2 July for response by DWP Medical Services Contracts Correspondence Team (MSCCT) Fol Officer.

In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

Please can you tell me the average cost of a Work Capability Assessment Appeals Tribunal, please can you also tell me the average cost claimed for people attending these appeals.

The appeals process against WCA decisions relating to ESA is partially handled by Jobcentre Plus, with the majority of the process being handled by the Tribunals Service, part of the Ministry of Justice, who can be contacted directly for further information on this subject at: Data Access and Compliance Unit, Information Directorate, Ministry of Justice, 1st Floor, Zone C, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ.

Whilst the Tribunals Service are unable to breakdown the exact full costs of tribunals for specific benefit types, the average unit cost of clearing a Social Security and Child Support appeal, on the basis of an average Tribunal Panel that would hear such cases and all associated administration costs of processing the case, which was provided in relation to a response to a parliamentary question referenced as 10/17962 14 October 2010 was £293.

The average direct staff unit cost within Jobcentre Plus at that date of an ESA Appeal is approximately £55.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central 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@dwpgsi.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