

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 1017

Date: 10 April 2017

Dear Barbara Sunley,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017. You asked:

*Do you know the cost to the tax payer of an individual appeal for benefits*

The Department is unable to provide you with this information. This is because our management information systems do not record this level of detail being asked for. We estimate that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds 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 and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

In order to comply with Section 16 of the FOI Act and to bring your request within the appropriate cost limit you may wish to limit your request. We suggest that you might do this by requesting the cost of an individual appeal for the specific benefit you are interested in, as the DWP does not measure the cost of an appeal across all benefits. DWP will then be happy to consider your request afresh. However, we should advise that DWP cannot guarantee that any revised request will be within the cost limit.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto: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 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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)