

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI2020/27578

2 July 2020

Dear Mr Chandler

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received by The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) on 5 June 2020 when you asked: -

1. Could you please give me the total cost to the British tax payer for people living overseas but claiming a UK benefit for the past 5 years.
2. What are the benefits that can be claimed from overseas.
3. What is the process for checking the eligibility of those claiming benefits from overseas e.g. what is the review process if the claimant lives overseas.

DWP Response

1. I confirm that we hold information relating to your request.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available on the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-expenditure-and-caseload-tables

If you do not have access to the Internet at home, you may be able to use facilities at your local public library. However, in the interests of customer service, I enclose a copy of the total cost for people living overseas claiming a UK benefit for the past 5 years.

Cost of overseas benefit £billions

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total Expenditure	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2

	Total Estimated Delegated Expenditure Limit cost of administering International Pension Centre Benefits			
	State Pension Load £m	State Pension Claims £m	Other Benefits £m	Total £m
2018/19	14.0	5.4	6.1	25.5
2017/18	14.4	8.6	8.0	31.0
2016/17	16.0	9.4	5.3	30.7
2015/16	13.8	8.1	4.4	26.3
2014/15	12.5	8.9	4.1	25.5
				139.0

2. This information is available to the public online at: <https://www.gov.uk/claim-benefits-abroad/where-you-can-claim-benefits>

3. The DWP decision maker determines benefit eligibility based on the legislation applicable to each benefit. Claims are subject to routine reviews, as the Department deems to be necessary, to ensure that benefit is paid in accordance with legislation.

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

Yours sincerely

DWP Central FoI 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.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

Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745