

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

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

LANGTON <request-496294-f9c663ab@whatdotheyknow.com>

Our reference: FOI 3087

Date: 26 July 2018

Dear Ms P Langton

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 10 July 2018.
You asked:

*"I was born in December 1956.
I was 38 years old when the 1995 Pension Act had Royal Assent.
I would have had an SPA of 60 before the Pensions Act 1995 and
would have reached retirement in 2016.
The Pensions Act 1995 received Royal Assent on 19 July 1995.
Part II relates to state pensions and includes section 126 for the
equalisation of the state pension age.
Part I has effect to equalise pensionable age for men and women
progressively over a period of ten years beginning with 6th April 2010.
Mr FOI Requests are simple and would like a simple answer without
sending me graphs or reports etc, or information that does not answer
my direct and simple questions.
Having seen dates from previous FOI (By Month and Year) of some of
the 1950's women requests which the DWP had reportedly sent direct
letters to them informing them of The Pensions Act 1995 I cannot find
any information on when that same information/Letter was sent to the
1956 Women who are the same cohort of Women who has been
effected by this Act.
I am fully aware from other FOI Requests that for individuals with a
date of birth 6 Apr 1955 to 5 Apr 1960 letters were issued between Oct
2012 and Nov 2013, However it does not give any clear evidence that
the DWP did indeed inform me directly of The Pensions Act of 1995.
This is why my FOI request is clear and plain, it should not be replied
to by previous FOI such as – Examples of the letters sent to individuals
can be found in the Work and Pensions Select Committee report, the
link to which is below;
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmworpen/899/899.pdf>
This type of reply would not give me any answers to requests, or
indeed if you send Examples of the letters, such information does not
give me what was reportedly sent to me, I am only interested in which
letter when and what were the content related to me and me only not
any others.*

My FOI Request is: What date by month and year did the DWP send me a direct Letter informing me of ONLY of The Pensions Act of 1995.

My FOI Request is: What date by month and year did the DWP send me a direct Letter informing me of ONLY The Pension Act of 2011.

My FOI Request is: What date by month and year did the DWP send me a direct Letter informing me of both The Pension Act of 1995 and 2011.

My FOI Request is: Women who were born in Dec 1956 were they excluded from the DWP mailing to inform them of the 1995 Pension Act, YES or No?

The DWP had said that for previous FOI they had notified women born in the 1950's of the Pension Changes and of the number of letters sent, however from the 6 Apr 1955 to 5 Apr 1960 the date the DWP said that they notified was Oct 2012 to Nov 2013.

My FOI Request is: What year did the DWP sent the letter informing me of any Pension Changes was it 2012 or 2013?

The DWP was mailing certain groups to inform them of the 1995 Pension Act to Women born prior to 5 Apr 1953, this is found on many FOI Requests.

My FOI Request is: Was it ONLY this group of Women prior to 5 Apr 1953 that were sent direct letters informing them of the changes to the 1995 Pension who were affected by the 1995 Pension Act.?

You may send a standard Response such as – There is no information requested here that can be provided under the Freedom of Information Act, which I would presume that you would not have the information to give!

This would indeed be very odd as it was the DWP that implemented the changes and to reply in such a manner to very simple questions suggests that you could not tell me what action you took directly with me, and such responses lay doubt on if any actions such as informing me directly of any Acts were ever undertaken.”

DWP Response:

The Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold. If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question.

As this request appears to be a duplicate of an earlier request from you, we are, under Section 14(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, under no obligation to answer identical or substantially similar requests made by the same person.

Due to the time elapsed, we do not hold recorded information to answer your request. However, you may find the following explanation useful. We have provided this outside our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Department commenced direct mailing activity to those affected by the Pensions Act 1995 in April 2009.

The direct mailing activity was then temporarily suspended in June 2010 following the announcement of the Government's Call for Evidence.

Further changes to State Pension age were subsequently introduced in the Pensions Act 2011.

Following this the Department recommenced direct mailing activity in January 2012.

To date, the direct mailing activity has included women born between 6 April 1950 and 5 April 1953, and men and women born between 6 April 1953 and 5 April 1960.

The Department does not hold any further information about additional planned activity directly in response to either the Pensions Act 1995 or Pensions Act 2011, nor is it required to provide opinion in absence of any further information.

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