

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 3788

DATE 19 August 2013

Dear Gazz,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received 10 August. You asked;

*When receiving confirmation that benefit is to be paid, the confirmation also states ~ I quote ~
'How much the law says you need to live on ' end quote.*

*Please can you detail specifically what sections of law are used in the assessments made by
the DWP to come to the conclusion/total of benefit arrived at?*

I refer you to Regulations 79 and 82 in the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996. These set out in 1996 the amount that an individual would need to live on, and that figure has been uprated each year by the Uprating Order:
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/a11-4001.pdf>

The amount is intended to cover day-to-day living expenses. In addition, in setting the rates of benefit the Government takes account of the competing demands on public expenditure and work incentives. Benefit rates are not an aggregate of separate amounts for specific items of expenditure such as food or fuel charges. The Government has not prescribed what expenses the personal allowances cover as it is for each individual or family unit to decide how to spend their benefit, in the light of their individual needs and preferences.

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@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