



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
Information Team  
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Eva Sheffield  
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[freedom-of-information-  
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2021/39563

07 June 2021

Dear Eva Sheffield,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 18 May. You wrote:

“Thank you for your reply to my request request-751671-6a59c613@whatdotheyknow.com

In your reply, you stated that The Flexible Support Fund budget is not allocated to individual offices and is managed at an Area level. In light of this information please provide information on The Flexible Support Fund budget vs expenditure that covers Westminster Area for 2018-2019; 2019-2020; 2020-2021.

Please advise the amounts budgeted for each year and what was actually spend. How much was left unused? Please provide the breakdown of what was it spend on if available.”

## DWP Response

The Flexible Support Fund budget is allocated and managed at DWP Area level. The Westminster Area falls within the DWP South Area, which covers approximately 250 Jobcentres. The requested budget and expenditure figures for the Financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 are provided in the table below for South Area:

### Flexible Support Fund Budget & Expenditure for South Area (£'000)

	2018-19	2019-20
Budget	12,474	12,138
Expenditure	13,246	11,398
Under/(Over) spend	(772)	740

Source: Hyperion

Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

## Flexible Support Fund Expenditure breakdown for South Area (£'000)

Category	2018-19	2019-20
Partnerships	3,621	2,763
Removing Barriers	3,352	3,241
Training	6,113	4,816
Childcare *	0	485
Other	161	92

Source: Hyperion

Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

\* Childcare expenditure is only reported separately from October 2019, prior expenditure is reported across Removing Barriers and Training categories.

For 2020-2021

We can confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking. However, Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts this information from disclosure. This is because the information is intended for publication at a future date.

This exemption requires the Department to weigh up the public interest for and against disclosure. There is a public interest in information being released as soon as possible. However, there is a strong public interest in permitting public authorities, such as DWP, to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities. Therefore, in this instance the Department has a reasonable entitlement to make its own arrangements to publish information.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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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@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, 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.

Website: [ICO Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.