

08 March 2016

Dear Martin Keatings,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on 12 February 2016.

You asked:

FOI 2016-550

“I am seeking the following information under freedom of information. Please provide the information in the statutory time frame.

- 1. The number of full-time carers currently receiving carers allowance.**
- 2. The number of full-time carers in receipt of both carers allowance and income support.**
- 3. Number of carers in receipt of carers allowance broken down by age group.**
- 4. Number of carers in receipt of both carers allowance and a disability benefit.**
- 5. Number of carers per annum over the past 5 years who have stopped claiming benefits due to them dying.**
- 6. Number of carers receiving carers allowance in each of the past 10 years.”**

FOI 2016-551

“Please provide me the following information under freedom of information.

- 1. The current and preceding 2 years costs of administering income support (excluding benefit payments - operational costs only).**
- 2. The current and preceding 2 years costs of benefit payments (excluding operational costs) for income support.**
- 3. The number of Income Support claimants who are also in receipt of Carers Allowance.**
- 4. Out of number 3, how many claimants who are FULL TIME carers.**
- 5. The current and preceding 2 years cost of administering Carers Allowance (excluding benefit payments - operational costs only).**
- 6. The current and preceding 2 years costs of benefit payments (excluding operational costs) for Carers Allowance.**
- 7. The number of carers allowance recipients who have accessed budgeting loan facilities.”**

The Freedom of Information Act provides that requests can be aggregated for the purpose of estimating whether the cost limits apply. This is where more than one request has been made within 60 consecutive working days relating to the same or similar information and the requests have been made by the same person. This includes adding to the estimated costs of complying with a later request, the cost of complying with a request that has already been answered.

In this instance, for cost purposes the Department has decided to aggregate requests 2016-550 and 2016-551.

We can confirm that we hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit for central Government, set by regulations at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Under section 16 of the Act we should assist the requester in helping narrow their request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

There is already some related information in the public domain which can be found below. Once you have reviewed this material you may want to refine your request accordingly

Information on Carer's Allowance claimants is published via the Departmental Tabulation Tool, which allows users to create their own tables, and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>

The Client Group Analysis section of the Tabulation Tool gives information on the benefit combinations for those in the Carer client group.

The Department publishes benefit expenditure information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/benefit-expenditure-tables>.

Some information on applying for a Budgeting Loan is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/budgeting-help-benefits/eligibility>.

Please note that Carer's Allowance is not a qualifying benefit for a budgeting loan.

Further information on Carer's Allowance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/overview>

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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 <https://ico.org.uk/>