

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/04679

6 March 2019

Dear Jamie Evans,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 1 February. You asked:

- 1 There was an article in 2017 saying the Government put in £230 million funding into the CMS in 2016 and every month they made £1 million amonth in fees.*
- 2. Could you break down year to year how much the Goverment funding put in to the CMS and how much fees generated every month in fees they have made.*
- 3. Could you also confirm how much they spend in post on a year to year sinc 2014?*
- 4. And also how much the Goverment put into funding the Online Portal.*

DWP Response:

1. The total costs of running Child Maintenance Service are not directly available.

This is because the DWP do not attribute all costs to individual operational services.

2. Data relating to fees is available from the published Client Fund Accounts where it is available on an annual basis, links are below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-client-funds-account-2017-to-2018>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-client-funds-account-2016-to-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-client-funds-account-2015-to-2016>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-client-funds-account-2014-to-2015>

3. Spend on CMS postage by calendar year (January to December) from January 2014 to March 2018 is as per the table below:

Year	Total for Year
2014	566,926
2015	692,638
2016	623,816
2017	455,927
Jan - Mar 2018*	83,946

*Note the 2018 figure is a part year figure only covering January to March 2018. The Department also holds the information you are seeking in respect of expenditure since 1st April 2018. However, because the information is intended for publication at a future date, Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts it from disclosure.

This is because the Department's accounts for 2018/19 are subject to audit and any early release of data would undermine proper and future publication. While the information you have requested is more detailed than that which would normally be included in the annual accounts, it would still mean we would be pre-publishing higher level details.

4. Regarding the on line portal, there was no single funding charge raised for the portal as it was funded and delivered in an iterative approach alongside other I.T releases.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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 https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745