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Via email:
request-478179-72446d5d@whatdotheyknow.com

11 May 2018

Ref: FOI2018/07361

Dear Mr Heather

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Government spending

Thank you for your enquiry of 16 April 2018, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"I see from a recent communication from HMR&C that the largest percentage of my tax contribution to the nation's income is expended on benefits.

This is obviously a wide and essential topic in our national culture, but could I be given a broad breakdown of the percentage allocation of spending over major categories please?"

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

The FOI Act does not oblige public authorities to reissue information that is reasonably accessible to a requester (section 21) but, to help you locate the information, we have provided you with a link to where it can be found online.

In each of the last four years, HMRC have sent out tax summaries to 30 million households that show clearly and simply how much they have paid in tax and national insurance contributions. Further guidance on these summaries are available from the link provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-public-spending-was-calculated-in-your-tax-summary/how-public-spending-was-calculated-in-your-tax-summary>

Contained within the guidance is a link to PESA table 5.2, the basis of the spending allocations seen in these summaries. A link to State Pension data, sourced from the Office for Budget Responsibility is also included as these are not separately identifiable from table 5.2.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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