



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref : 2527 , 2559, 2560 and 2561

DATE: 20th June 2018

Dear Trudy Baddams,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on 25th and 29th May 2018. You asked for:-

FOI2527: How much has DWP paid to the over 60's in the form of JSA/ESA/Universal Credit since the pension age increased? How much has the DWP paid in benefits for the under 25's since the pension age increased?

FOI2559: How much has DWP paid to the over 60's in the form of JSA/ESA/Universal Credit since the pension age increased?

FOI2560: How much has the DWP paid in benefits for the under 25's since the pension age increased?

FOI2561: How many men and women from age 60 since 2013 have been paid JSA / ESA / Universal Credit

DWP response

The FoI 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 the Department has decided to aggregate the above requests for cost purposes.

I 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 help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit.

We hold caseload and average award data that would allow expenditure to be calculated for some benefits for the cohort specified in your request.

In the case of several, mostly small, benefits, data on the age of the recipient is not collated, and so the request could only be answered by trawling through every claim. This would breach the cost threshold.

Information on expenditure by age for Universal Credit is not held, nor do we hold any data on the age of Statutory Maternity Pay recipients.

To narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit, may I suggest that you restrict your request to data for the following benefits:

Bereavement benefits
Carer's Allowance
Disability Living Allowance
Employment and Support Allowance
Housing Benefit
Incapacity Benefit
Income Support
Industrial injuries benefits
Jobseeker's Allowance
Maternity Allowance
Personal Independence Payment

The most recent year for which the fullest possible information is available is 2016/17. Much of this information is published on the Nomis and StatXplore websites:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>
<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>

We will consider afresh any revised request. However we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference numbers above.

Yours,

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 (ICO) for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

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