



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: IR 422, 423, 444 and 445

DATE: 31 August 2018

Dear Trudy Baddams

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) Internal Review requests received on 3 August 2018. You asked:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'How much has the DWP paid in benefits for the under 25's since the pension age increased?'.
<div data-bbox="83 478 640 496" data-label="Text">

this is not an expensive thing to do, please provide the answers

DWP Response

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed and that I was unconnected with the handling of your original request. I am now in a position to reply.

As the answer to this request was an aggregated response I have taken your requests for Internal Review to apply to all four original requests.

Our response to your previous requests FOI 2527, 2559, 2560 and 2561 were aggregated. This is where the Fol Act provides that requests can be aggregated for the purpose of estimating whether the cost limits apply. 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.

I am satisfied that the original response was handled properly and that the outcome of your request was correct. The reasoning behind this decision is as follows:

The original response explained that it is estimated 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.

Help and advice was provided to you under section 16 of the Act, to help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. We advised that we hold caseload and average award data that would allow expenditure to be calculated for some benefits for the cohorts specified in your request. In particular, we hold such data on Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance.

In the case of several, mostly small, benefits, data on the age of the recipient is not collated and so the request for spending on benefits for the under-25s 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, we suggested 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

We also advised you 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 the Department 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 FoI Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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 www.ico.gov.uk