



HM Revenue
& Customs

Anca Moldovan

By email:

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Our ref: FOI2018/02063

Dear Anca Moldovan

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request, which was received on 14 September, for the following information:

“Could you please provide me data on median/mean income for Dalston? In addition, I would like to request data on percentile points of the income distribution for Dalston for the most recent tax year.”

I can confirm HMRC holds information that falls within the scope of your request. However, we estimate that it would exceed the FOIA cost limit to deal with it. The cost limit, which is specified in regulations, equates to one person spending 3½ working days locating and extracting all of the information within scope of the request.

There are actually two places in the UK called Dalston; a district of Hackney in east London and a large village/civil parish within the Carlisle district of Cumbria. We would normally ask for clarification from you to confirm which you would like information for.

However, in this instance we do not publish information for either Dalston within our regular National Statistics series from the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI). The SPI is a representative sample of individuals from HMRC's Paye As You Earn (PAYE) and Self Assessment (SA) systems. As a sample, analysis at very low levels of geography is not possible. Even if postcodes for Dalston were supplied, it is unlikely that the SPI would be suitable for this request because estimates for Dalston would be based on particularly small numbers of taxpayers. We would then need to suppress values in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals' information.

We do publish sub-regional analysis in tables 3.12-3.15 which can be accessed via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694507/National_Statistics_T3_12_to_T3_15a_publication_2015_16_-_FINAL.pdf

Both Carlisle and Hackney are shown in these tables, which may be of interest to you.

Since the SPI cannot provide the information requested, even if you confirmed which Dalston you were referring to, it would be necessary to decide how individuals from that area should be identified. It would then be necessary to develop a bespoke query to run against HMRC's PAYE and SA business systems in order to produce the information you have requested.

Information is available in large print, audio and Braille formats.
Text Relay service prefix number – 18001



We estimate that the time required to complete this task would exceed the cost limit by some way. Consequently, under section 12(1) of the FOIA, HMRC is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Normally, HMRC would explore with you how you might be able to narrow or refine your request so that it did not exceed the FOIA cost limit. However, in this case, we cannot see any scope for doing this.

For more information about the SPI, please refer to the following Personal Incomes Statistics release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-incomes-statistics>

If you are not satisfied with this reply you may request a review within two months by emailing foi.review@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk, or by writing to the address at the top right-hand side of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. The following link explains how to do this: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team