



HM Revenue & Customs

Ms Florence Elizabeth Constance Daisley

By email: request-576859-ec3dbfe3@whatdotheyknow.com

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Our ref: FOI2019/01195

Dear Ms Elizabeth Constance Daisley

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request, which was received on 17 May, for the following information:

"What information, about employed earners, is shared with the Department of Work and Pensions when the employed earner does not have a claim for Universal Credit or any other welfare benefit?"

In regard to the above question, is any distinction made between employed earners who have previously claimed Universal Credit (and have stopped) and employed earners who have not claimed Universal Credit?

If the former group is treated differently, please explain how."

I can confirm HMRC holds information relating to your request. I will answer each of your questions in turn.

Q1: What information, about employed earners, is shared with the Department of Work and Pensions when the employed earner does not have a claim for Universal Credit or any other welfare benefit?

HMRC shares information for analytical purposes about employed earners with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) when the employed earner does not have a claim for Universal Credit or any other welfare benefit. This is where DWP have a clear interest in the individual or the data relates to one of their policy functions. It includes Employment, Self-Assessment, P14 and Occupational Pension data.

HMRC will share earnings and employment information (upon request from DWP) for Universal Credit or some other welfare benefits for individuals who have a new or existing claim to benefit. However, in circumstances relating to certain benefit claims we are able to share partner income due to the benefit policy rules which need to include total 'household income' in the claim assessment. This only happens where the partner is included in the benefit claim.

Information shared with DWP includes, but is not restricted to, name, National Insurance number, Employer name, earnings type, employment start / end date, total pay, taxable pay.

Q2: In regard to the above question, is any distinction made between employed earners who have previously claimed Universal Credit (and have stopped) and employed earners who have not claimed Universal Credit?

No distinction is made between employed earners who have previously claimed Universal Credit (and have stopped) and employed earners who have not claimed Universal Credit.

HMRC and DWP are bound by legislative obligations of confidence which preclude disclosure of information except in certain limited circumstances; broadly for the purposes of their functions, where there is a legislative gateway or with customer consent.

Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act (CRCA) sets out the specific circumstances in which HMRC may disclose information.

For claims that have stopped and where an overpayment of benefit has been discovered, HMRC (upon request from DWP), shares earnings related data where the 'Debtor' is no longer in receipt of UC or an 'other Welfare Benefit', which is used by DWP to set up a repayment plan with the 'Debtor'.

Q3: If the former group is treated differently, please explain how.

There is no different treatment.

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](#)

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team