

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2019/12315

12 April 2019

Dear Graham Cay,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 25 March. You asked:

*I would like the following information.*

*As a percentage, how many of your staff based in the Western Isles (HS postcode) receive the Distant Islands Allowance?*

*If not 100%, please detail the qualifying criteria*

**DWP Response:**

DWP no longer pays a Scottish Distant Islands Addition.

DWP does, however, offer a Recruitment and Retention Addition which can be paid to counter specific recruitment and retention problems.

RRA may be used when it is necessary to offer a higher salary for a particular role to attract and retain applicants/employees with scarce skills, experience or knowledge or when it is difficult to recruit/retain skills in a particular location.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me 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](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol 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 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  
[https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745