

DWP Policy Group Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2018/09338

30 November 2018

Dear Mr Ian White,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 13 November. You asked:

- 1. Please provide me with the number of Mandatory Reconsiderations [MR's] for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) you were asked to make in the following years, 2015, 2016, 2017?*
- 2. Of these figures how many were left with an unchanged award? broken down per year?*
- 3. How many of this number had an increase in their awards? broken down per year?*
- 4. How many of this number had a decrease in their awards? broken down per year?*
- 5. Of those who asked for a MR and went onto lodge an appeal how many were successful at appeal and thus, in getting an increase in their awards?*

DWP Response:

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.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The information you requested at Parts 1 and 2 on the number of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) MRs requested and the number where the decision was not revised are available on DWP's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics> (Tables 7a and 7b)

For parts 3, 4 and 5 regarding information on the number of MRs which resulted in an increase or decrease in award, and the number increased following appeal we are unable to suggest how you can amend your request so that it falls within the cost limit. To determine the direction of the change would require complex data matching that would exceed the appropriate cost limit for central Government.

However, there is some related information in the public domain on the number of MRs where the award was changed which can be found at Table 7b in the link above.

Information on the number of decisions overturned at appeal is available on the Ministry of Justice web-site.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics> (Table SSCS.3)

It should be noted that not all MR and Tribunal appeals will relate to the outcome of the PIP assessment, but other aspects of the process.

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 number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Policy Group 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 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 or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745