

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Policy Group Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: IR2018/10147

Date: 3 December 2018

Dear Ian White,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information review request received on 17th November. You asked:

I find it inconceivable you do not hold these exact figures, when it is yourselves that administer the system. Please undertake an internal review!

DWP Response:

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request, I was not involved previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. I am now in a position to respond to you.

I am content that your original request was dealt with in accordance with DWP guidelines for FoI requests. The reasoning behind why information on the number of MRs which resulted in an increase or decrease in award, and the number increased following appeal is not available for PIP is as follows:

- The MR outcomes recorded by a DWP CM on the PIP Computer System are 'new decision - changed,' 'new decision - unchanged,' 'decision not revised,' or 'withdrawn.'
- The appeal outcomes recorded on the PIP Computer system are 'new decision – changed,' 'new decision – unchanged,' 'decision maintained,' 'appeal lapsed,' 'withdrawn – pre HMCTS' or 'withdrawn – post HMCTS'.
- To determine the direction of the change would require complex data matching that would take in excess of 5 working days and thus 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.
- The data matching and extraction of the data requested would involve application of specialist knowledge to the manipulation of the raw data and high level of skill and judgement, which would amount to creating new information not already held by the Department.

I hope this is helpful but 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 content with the outcome of this 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
ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745