

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2020/33594

17 July 2020

Dear Sarah Phoenix,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 1 July. You asked:

Please could you send me confirmation and specific policy information about the New Enterprise Scheme and Universal Credit. In the form of guidelines or policy.

So that if someone applies for and is accepted into the New Enterprise Scheme, that they will still receive the monthly allowance £409 in addition to the New Enterprise Scheme allowance that is provided, when seeking a job, until the new self employment is profitable.

DWP Response:

I confirm that we hold the recorded information to respond to your request.

The New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) supports people on eligible benefits who want to move into self-employment. The allowance element of the NEA has been developed specifically to assist with the uncertain and varying levels of cash-flow a fledgling business will encounter in its initial trading period.

It is not clear what the figure of £409 refers to in the Freedom of Information request. If the figure relates to a Universal Credit award, the allowance element of the NEA is disregarded for UC purposes and is paid in addition to the UC award.

More information about the NEA can be accessed via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/moving-from-benefits-to-work/starting-your-own-business>.

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@dwpa.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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745