

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/17450

Date: Xx May 2019

Dear Amanda Hart,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 7 May 2019. You asked:

*Please kindly supply the following from the year 2015 to the most recent available:
(You may or may not refer to this as compensation to grieving families)*

*Total monies paid out due to death.
Total count of payouts for the same.*

DWP Response

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Unfortunately, I cannot deal with your request without clarification of the information you seek. To help me do so, I would like to know;

- When you refer to expenditure and number of pay-outs due to death, is this for benefits relating to death?

If so, please confirm that this refers to bereavement related benefits (legacy bereavement benefits awarded prior to 6 April 2017, and Bereavement Support Payments which replaced it on that date).

- Please list if there are other benefits you are interested in, including Funeral Expenses Payments.

Otherwise please confirm what payments you are referring to as compensation?

Under section 16 of the Act we should assist you in helping you focus your request.

There is already some related information in the public domain. Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you. A list of benefits to help when someone dies, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/bereavement>

Information on bereavement related benefits expenditure can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-expenditure-and-caseload-tables-2019>

For the number of people on Bereavement Support Payment (April 2017 onwards) you can find this here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-benefits-statistics-february-2019>

For the number of people on legacy bereavement related benefits (prior to April 2017) you can find this here:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>

For Funeral Expense Payments expenditure, and number of awards, this is in the Social Fund Annual Report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-fund-annual-report-2017-to-2018>

Once you've reviewed this material you may want to refine your request accordingly. 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 us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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