

06 August 2020

Dear Mike Allen,

Freedom of Information ref: 2020-IR37585

Thank you for your request for an internal review of your Freedom of Information request 2020-24096 which we responded to on 4 June 2020.

You asked:

“Please note that although you say you cannot provide the data I saw today a presentation by David Slocum of Devon County Council which contained similar information

Please could you comply with my Fol request”

In your original request you asked:

“Please can you supply me with a spreadsheet showing welfare benefit claims inside each Jobcentre Area in Devon and if possible, the trend since January 2019 by month.”

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. I confirm that I have considered your request afresh. In conducting my review, I have discussed the original reply, the handling and the decisions on what can be provided with the officer who drafted it.

You have stated **“you say you cannot provide the data”** however the response you received did not say that. We informed you that we were unable to proceed with your request without clarification of the information you wished to receive.

In your original request you referred to ‘welfare benefit claims’. We asked you to clarify if you were referring to the number of people who submitted a welfare benefit claim, i.e. benefit applicants, or if were you referring to the number of people who were actually in receipt of a welfare benefit? We also pointed out that the Department for Work and Pensions is not responsible for all welfare benefits.

To assist you with your clarification you were supplied with a link to Stat-Xplore where we publish statistics on various welfare benefits. To assist you further I have supplied you with additional links below which give information about other benefits we hold information on. Once you have supplied clarification of what you mean by the term “welfare claims” we will be able to direct your request to the most appropriate part of the department and provide an appropriate response.

You may be interested to know that the Department publishes statistics on benefits, pensions, employment programmes, income distribution and other subjects we are responsible for here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

We publish more detailed information on some of these benefits on the Stat-Xplore website which can be accessed here: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

These figures can be broken down by date and various residential geographical breakdowns, and for Universal Credit the figures can also be broken down to various Jobcentre Plus geographies. Guidance on how to extract information required from Stat-Xplore can be found at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Getting-Started.html>

You may also be interested to know that the Office for National Statistics publishes Jobseeker's Allowance stocks and on-flows on the Nomis website. These monthly figures can be broken down by various residential and Jobcentre Plus geographies, and are available here: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/uf>

Please note the following information regarding claims to Jobseeker's Allowance since 30 March 2020: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/1208.aspx>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us 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@dwp.gsi.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/>