

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 5409

Date: 4 February 2015

Dear I White,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 17/12/14. You asked:

When sending out a breakdown of a claimants "Entitlement" that breakdown always says in some way or another....

"This is because etc. etc. the amount the Law says you need to live on "

A, Please can you tell me exactly which law you are refering to here and please provide me with a copy of that law (not Act which is a statutory instrument).

B, If the law say I need £X to live on am I not breaking the law if I then use that money for something other than living expenses?

C, Has the DWP factored this "Law" into the fact people are having to use the money "The Law says they need to live on" into paying "Bedroom Tax" as it is more commonly know?

D, Will the DWP prosecute anyone who uses "The money the Law says they need to live on" for the paying of things other than necessitys?

E, How many First Tier Tribunal cases have the DWP lost in the whole of the UK?

F, How much has the DWP paid thus far (to the date of this request) spent on appealing the Bedroom Tax at First Tier Tribunal (FTT) level?

G, How much so far has the DWP spent progressing winners of FTT to the Upper Tribunal appeal?

H, Finally please could I have a full and exact break down of expenses for both Iain Duncan Smith MP and Esther McVey MP for the last 2 financial years? Not expenses as MP's but expenses claimed directly through the DWP as "work" expenses?

I can confirm that the Department may 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 of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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 www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745