

**Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)**  
**Central Freedom of Information Team**

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

**Our reference:** Fol 2406

**Date:** 1 June 2018

Dear Ms Sunley,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 17 May 2018.

*You asked 'Two unemployed claimants one in receipt of Job seekers allowance the other in receipt of Universal credit with exactly the same situation, over a period of a year would both receive exactly the same amount of money.'*

**DWP Response:**

It may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not provide that a public authority must create new information to answer questions; nor does it provide that a public authority give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

In cases where a customer does ask a question, rather than request recorded information, we do our utmost to provide the recorded information that best answers the question. Once the public authority has provided the recorded information or confirmed that no such recorded information is held, it has met its obligations under the Act. Interpretation of any information provided is left to the requestor.

However, to be helpful you may find the following information below useful in order to assist you with your query and provide you with suitable opportunities for you to obtain the relevant information you seek.

This has however been provided outside our obligations under the Freedom of Information regime.

The rates for the two benefits you mention are calculated differently, one weekly, one monthly. This information is available in Gov.uk and the links are provided below for ease of reference. The rates published can be used to calculate the annual sum you require.

JSA: <https://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance>

UC: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/what-youll-get>

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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**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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745