

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

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

Our reference: FOI2018/03014

Date: 1 October 2018

Dear C Hart

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 3 September. You asked:

I would like to requests under FOI how student finance maintenance loans and the special support element is worked out when eligible for universal credit. The SSE is meant to be disregarded. Could you verify? I would also like to ask for calculation of universal credit reduction against the maintenance loan.

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, it has met its obligations under the Act; interpretation of the information provided is left to the requestor.

The information we hold that best answers your questions can be found in the 'Universal Credit Full Service guidance' which is published in the House of Commons library. Select the link below, Deposit ref. DEP2018-0759, click on "Show all files" in the Deposit ref. column. For reference please see Deposit paper: 'Students: eligibility, conditionality and student income.'

https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?search_term=Department+for+Work+and+Pensions&itemId=119004#toggle-759

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Policy Group 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@dwpgsi.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 www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745