

# Freedom of Information request 2012-3541

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## Information request

We urgently require the most recent figures available for Peterborough on the following:

1). Welfare Reform general:

(a) The number of families in Peterborough who are in receipt of over £25000 in benefits who will be affected by Welfare Reform

2). Social Fund budget

(a) The amount of Social Fund budget that Peterborough has been allocated by month for the last 3 years

(b) How much of that allocation has been spent; and the breakdown of that expenditure

3). Pensioners

(a) The number of pensioners in Peterborough whose partners are not of pensionable age

4). DLA

(a) The number of people in Peterborough currently claiming DLA (most recent data)

(b) How much less Personal Independent Plan funding is to DLA

(c) The number of disabled people in Peterborough who received Employment Support Allowance

(d) The number of disabled people in Peterborough who failed an Employment Support Allowance claim

(e) The likely percentage of people currently claiming DLA who will lose or have reduced benefit income

5). Lone Parents

(a) The number of Lone Parents who are claiming tax credits in Peterborough

(b) What the reduction of tax credits will be, and how much that will be for Peterborough

6). Families with disabled children

(a) The number of families who have disabled children included in tax credit claim

(b) What the reduction will be, and how much that will be for Peterborough

7). Forms with errors

(a) The number of forms identified in the past 3 years with errors (in Peterborough)

(b) The cost of this in payment of fines

8). Contributory Employment Support Allowance

(a) The number of people who claimed Contributory Employment Support Allowance based on NI for more than a year over the past 3 years

(b) The amount of claims that will cease after 12 months and the loss of income to claimants

## **DWP response**

Our responses to your questions are set out below.

### **Question 1 (a)**

The information you have requested is shown in the table below.

The table shows the estimated number of households likely to have their benefit reduced by the household benefit cap in the year 2013-14, when the benefit cap is implemented; and a subdivision into numbers whose reduction is: a) between £0 and £50 per week; b) between £50 and £100 per week; and c) more than £100 per week.

### **Estimated number of households by effect of cap by Local Authority**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Number of households by effect of cap (£ per week reduction in benefit)</b>			<b>Total number of households capped</b>
	Less than 50	50 to 100	Over 100	
Peterborough	..	..	..	200

Source: DWP Strategy Group

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. ".." denotes that fewer than 100 households are in that category.
3. Numbers for areas with fewer than 100 households affected have not been provided as additional disclosure control has been applied to these areas.

### **Question 2 (a)**

The information that you have requested is not available.

### **Question 2 (b)**

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Information on Discretionary Social Fund applications, awards and spend by Local Authority in the last three years can be found at

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/social-fund-reform/>

Local Authority data can be accessed via the [Social Fund Reform Localisation Data](#) link.

### **Question 3 (a)**

The information that you have requested on the number of pensioners in Peterborough whose partners are not of pension age is not readily available.

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 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the data. 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.

### **Question 4 (a)**

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes a wide range of statistics on benefit claimants on its website via the **Tabulation Tool** at

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> which allows you to construct your own tables.

For example, to produce statistics on how many people in Peterborough are currently receiving a payment for DLA, go to the **Tabulation Tool** and;

1. Scroll down and select **Benefit Caseloads National Statistics (WPLS) data** in the **Benefit Data** section
2. Under **Benefit/Scheme**, select **Disability Living Allowance - cases in payment**
3. In the **Analysis** section, select **Caseload (Thousands)**,

4. Next, in the **Row** option, select **Local Authority**
5. In the **Column** option, select the information you may require i.e. **Gender of claimant,**
6. Next, in the **Subset** option, select **NONE,**
7. Finally, in the **Date** option, select the latest date available, in this case **February 2012.**

#### **Question 4 (b)**

The information that you have requested is not available.

There is no set funding for benefits. Personal Independence Payment is being designed to create a fairer, more transparent and sustainable benefit and to enable support to be focussed on individuals who have the greatest needs - it is not simply a cost-cutting exercise. Expenditure on DLA has risen by almost 34% in just under the last 10 years and reform was required to bring the benefit back onto a sustainable footing.

As a result of these reforms and focussing resources on those who need them most, we will continue to provide essential support for disabled people. Overall spending on Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and DLA will be higher in real terms in 2015-16 (£13.2 billion) than spending on DLA was in 2010-11 (£12.5 billion).

#### **Question 4 (c)**

The information that you have requested on the number of disabled people in Peterborough who received Employment Support Allowance (ESA) is not readily available.

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 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the data. 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.

For information the table below gives the number of people in Peterborough who are in receipt of both ESA and Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

#### **Number of claimants by Benefit Combination and Local Authority: February 2012**

<b>Benefit Combination</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Number of claimants</b>
ESA and DLA	Peterborough	1,140

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten
2. Figures for DLA include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
3. Local Authority of claimant: On April 1st 2009 structural changes to the Local Authorities of England took effect. Changes are reflected from May 2009 in the table.

#### **Question 4 (d)**

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The latest report was published in July 2012 and can be found on the internet at the link below:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa\\_wca](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca)

Please see the table below for outcomes of the initial functional assessment in the local authority area of Peterborough. This can be compared with table 1a in the publication mentioned above.

#### **Outcome of initial functional assessment for claims starting between October 2008 and November 2011 in Peterborough**

<b>Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed</b>				
<b>Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:</b>			<b>Fit for Work</b>	<b>Any outcome</b>
<b>Work Related Activity Group</b>	<b>Support Group</b>	<b>Either group</b>		
(a)	(b)	(a + b)	(c)	(a + b + c)
1,460	650	2,110	2,020	4,130
35%	16%	51%	49%	100%

Source: This data is taken from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Percentages are shown to the nearest whole number

**Question 4 (e)**

The information that you have requested is not available.

It is very difficult to make generalisations about who will leave the benefit, as entitlement is based on individual circumstances and the impact of disabilities, not on what condition people have. Some people will receive more support, some broadly the same, others less and some will leave the benefit altogether.

Those who leave are most likely to be people with conditions that have a low impact on their day-to-day lives and who have a high level of participation in society without needing expensive aids and appliances or a lot of help from others. They will come from across the full range of disabilities.

The current assessment criteria is not the final version. We are currently considering all of the comments received through the assessment consultation, and evaluating what changes need to be made. We will publish our response to the consultation as well as the main draft regulations later this year. However, many people who currently receive DLA will continue to receive support under Personal Independence Payment.

**Questions 5 – 6**

The responsibility for Tax Credits statistics lie with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). You may be interested to know that HMRC publishes a wide range of Official and National statistics via its website:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/thelibrary/national-statistics.htm>

In particular statistics on Tax Credits, which include breakdowns for lone parents and those claiming the disability element of Child Tax Credit (CTC) have been published at:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-main-apr12.pdf>

**Question 7 (a) – (b)**

The information that you have requested on the number of forms identified in the past 3 years with errors (in Peterborough) and the cost of this in payment of fines is not readily available

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 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the data. 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.

### **Question 8 (a)**

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

To produce statistics on how many people are claiming Employment Support Allowance by Payment Type and Duration of current claim, go to the **Tabulation Tool** and;

1. Scroll down and select **Benefit Caseloads National Statistics (WPLS) data** in the Benefit Data
2. Under **Benefit/Scheme**, select **Employment and Support Allowance**
3. In the **Analysis** section, select **Caseload (Thousands)**
4. Next, in the **Row** option, select **Payment Type**
5. In the **Column** option, select the **Duration of claim**
6. Finally, in the **Date** option, select the date you require, in this case **February 2012, February 2011 or February 2010 (done in separate tables)**.

### **Question 8 (b)**

It is estimated that for GB as a whole, around 700,000 people will have been affected by time limiting contributory ESA by 2015/16. Whilst the time limit will remove contributory ESA payments for these claimants, approximately 60% are expected to be partially or wholly compensated by a corresponding increase in income-related ESA. The average loss in net income for all those affected is £36.

For further details see the impact assessment "Time limit Contributory Employment and Support Allowance to one year for those in the Work-Related Activity Group". This can be found via the following link:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf>