

Freedom of Information request 2579/2013

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Information request

I wish to know the following;

- 1: The total number of people currently claiming a state pension.*
- 2: The total number of people currently claiming a state pension in excess of the proposed flat rate pension being introduced in 2016.*
- 3: The estimated total number of people who will be claiming a state pension one day before the new flat rate pension comes into existence in 2016.*

Notes.

A: I appreciate that the answers to one or more questions may change on a daily basis, but would appreciate receiving figures that relate to one point in time, or that are marked "best estimate"

B: If possible, each answer should include a Male / Female split.

DWP response

Figure 1 below shows the number of people claiming state pension in November 2012, the latest period for which administrative data is available.

Figure 1: Numbers claiming a state pension in November 2012

Millions of recipients	Great Britain	Overseas	Total
Male	4.7	0.5	5.2
Female	7.0	0.7	7.7
Total	11.6	1.2	12.8

The single-tier pension will be introduced in April 2016. The level at which the pension will be paid has not yet been set, but the White Paper and accompanying impact assessment used an illustrative figure of £144 per week, in 2012/13 earnings terms. Figure 2 below shows the number of people claiming a net state pension of more than £144 per week and figure 3 gives the total numbers forecast to be in receipt at the end of March 2016.

Figure 2: Numbers claiming a net state pension of more than £144 per week

Millions of recipients	Great Britain	Overseas	Total
Male	2.0	0.0	2.0
Female	1.3	0.0	1.3
Total	3.3	0.1	3.4

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

Note that figures are rounded to nearest 0.1 million and may not sum due to rounding. A figure of 0.0 indicates fewer than 0.05 million.

Figure 3: Numbers forecast to be claiming a state pension at the end of March 2016

Millions of recipients	Great Britain	Overseas	Total
Male	5.0	0.5	5.6
Female	6.8	0.7	7.5
All	11.8	1.2	13.1

Source: Budget 2013 State Pension forecasts

Note that figures are rounded to nearest 0.1 million and may not sum due to rounding.

For information, the Department publishes a range of information on State Pension caseload on a quarterly and annual basis on its website via the tabulation tool at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/sp/tabtool_sp.html and benefit expenditure and caseload forecasts at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure_tables_Budget_2013.xls.