

18 May 2017

Ref: FOI2017/02600

Freedom of Information Act 2000: money received by former Prime Ministers

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 10 February 2017.

You asked for the following information:

“How much money from the public purse previous prime ministers (e.g. most recently David Cameron) still get paid even though they are no longer in public office? What are the reasons for these specific amounts?”

We confirm that HM Treasury holds some information within the scope of your request.

This response solely deals with pension payments made to former holders of the position of Prime Minister which are made from the Consolidated Fund. It should only be considered in that regard, as HM Treasury does not hold any information in relation to any other payments that may or may not be made to former Prime Ministers.

Those who held the position of Prime Minister prior to the Public Sector Pensions Act 2013 are entitled to a pension as set out in the provisions of the Parliamentary and other Pensions Act 1972 (as amended). The terms of the legislation can be found online at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/48>

The Public Sector Pensions Act 2013 Schedule 11 changed the pension entitlement for holders of the ‘Great Offices of State’ who assumed office after the legislation came into force. The legislation can be found online at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/25/contents>

Pensions are paid as a standing service on the Consolidated Fund. The following ex office holders are currently drawing a pension:

The Right Honourable Sir John Major
The Right Honourable Anthony Blair
The Right Honourable Gordon Brown ¹

¹ Mr Brown's pension payments are based only on contributions made by him and received by the Consolidated Fund.

Information in the public domain engages the exemption at section 21 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act: information reasonably accessible to the requester by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption, which means we are not required to reissue the information. However we are providing you with the following links to help you locate it.

The Parliamentary and other Pensions Act provides that office holders are entitled to a pension based on one-half of their salary at the time of leaving office. The pension is uprated in line with provisions set out in the Public Services Pension Scheme available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_pensions_links.htm

This hyperlink provides further links to the relevant legislation governing ministerial salaries. For example, the Ministerial Salaries Order 2011, lists current ministerial salaries – these pick up where the 1 April salaries left off:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/all?title=ministerial%20salaries%20act%201975>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/62/contents>

In relation to the pension of The Right Honourable Gordon Brown and The Right Honourable David Cameron, whilst they were entitled to take a pension in line with legislation, they waived this legislative right and instead are already receiving or will receive a pension in line with a pension available to a Secretary of State, based on the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF). As part of this waiver The Right Hon Gordon Brown and The Right Honourable David Cameron contributed to their pensions via salaried contributions as if they were members of the PCPF. In other words the amount they will receive in pension payments is based only what has been contributed. We are withholding the amounts drawn by each individual under section 40 of the FOI Act. Personal data is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOI Act, which is an absolute exemption. Section 40(2) exempts information from disclosure if that information constitutes personal data of someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would contravene any of the data protection principles in schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998. In this case, disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Information Rights Unit

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