

Freedom of Information request 3335/2013

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Information request

Please treat the following as a Freedom of Information Request:-

The Secretary for Work and Pensions, Mr Duncan Smith, has been quoted in the Scotsman newspaper today as stating that "The private sector has been providing jobs. Every week something like half a million new jobs are in the Jobcentres and out in the universal job match we have produced."

This is tremendous news - a definitive statement from a minister that 26 million new jobs are being created a year; enough new jobs for over a third of the population every year. If you remove the under-age, retired and sick from the equation it means we can expect virtually full employment before the next election.

. Please send me the specific statistics, and their sources, used to justify this statement, which will be used to support the Better Together campaign.

If the Secretary has not been misquoted this will even turn our immigration policies on their heads - within a year we will need all of the immigrants we can get, in order to fill the needs of employers.

DWP response

The "half a million" figure Iain Duncan Smith was referring to is the stock of open vacancies available in the economy at any one time. The source is the ONS (Office for National Statistics) Vacancy Survey and the data is available on the ONS website.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/datasets-and-tables/data-selector.html?cdid=AP2Y&dataset=lms&table-id=22>