

Freedom of Information request 243/2013

Received: 16 January 2013

Published: 7 February 2013

Information request

Of the employees auto-enrolled into pension schemes in the three months to 31/12/2012, how many have subsequently reached state retirement age on or before that date?

Of those, what is the average annual pension secured by each of them by virtue of such auto-enrollment?

DWP response

The Department does not hold this information.

Automatic enrolment is an employer duty to enrol eligible jobholders into a qualifying workplace pension scheme. It is up to the employer to select a scheme which meets the requirements which could be a trust or contract based scheme. From their staging date, employers must then automatically enrol eligible jobholders. Employers may choose to postpone an individual's automatic enrolment by a period of up to three months. Pension saving is not compulsory and workers who are automatically enrolled have the right to opt out within a period of one month. If they wish to exercise this right, they will need to obtain an opt out form from the pension scheme, complete it and return it to the employer. Any contributions which have already been made will be refunded to the worker and employer. Employers are required to register with The Pensions Regulator within a period of four months from their staging date. This includes providing some information about the automatic enrolment activity that the employer has carried out.

DWP is committed to fully evaluating the effects of the reforms. The DWP set out this evaluation strategy in a report published in July 2011, which is available at the following link:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2011-2012/rrep764.pdf>

DWP plans to publish a series of evaluation reports annually during the implementation of the workplace pension reforms and these will feed into the 2017 review as outlined in the Pensions Act 2008. This will include information on the number of eligible employees participating in a workplace pension scheme based on information from the Annual Survey of Hours and

Earnings and management information collected from the National Employment Savings Trust. The Department will seek to supplement this information by information from other pension providers and by conducting research with those who opt out of pension saving. The first in this series of reports – the baseline report describing the landscape before the reforms – was published in July 2012 and is available at the following link:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_803.asp