

Freedom of Information request 774/2013

Received 17 February 2013

Published 25 March 2013

Information request

“On 5 February, when giving evidence to the Eleventh Delegated Legislation Committee, Esther McVey, the minister for disabled people, said the following: “Every year, we spend £50 billion on support and benefits for disabled people, and we will continue to do so. We are a world leader in this field. We spend a fifth more than Europe, double America, six times Japan—I could continue. We are proud of the record we have, and we will continue to have it.”

I would like to know the exact figures these claims were based on and the years they were taken from, and the source for that information eg £32 billion on X benefit in 2010-11, £14 billion on Y benefit in 2010-11, and £4 billion on Z benefit in 2010-11. With figures for UK, Europe, America and Japan, and the sources for that information.”

DWP response

The £50 billion referred to by Esther McVey, Minister for Disabled People, in debate on 5 February 2013 is made up as follows:

Spend on disability

Benefits (forecasted spend 2012/13)

	£bn
Disability Living Allowance	13.6
Attendance Allowance	5.6
Employment and Support Allowance	6.5
Incapacity Benefit/Employment and Support Allowance	2.8

Source:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure>
and Disability Facts 2012/13

Severe Disablement Allowance	0.9
Industrial Injuries	0.9

Source:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure>

Other govt support for disabled people

Specialist Disability Employment Provision	0.32
Supporting people	1.6
Disabled Facilities	0.18
Adult Social Care	15.4
Concessionary travel	1
Motability	0.17
Total	48.97

Source: Disability Facts 2012/13

The comparisons to spending in Japan, America and Europe are based on OECD statistics shown in the table below.

Disability expenditure, proportion of GDP			
	2007	2008	2009
UK	1.9	2.2	2.4
Japan	0.4	0.4	0.4
America	1.0	1.0	1.0
EU - 21	1.3	1.3	1.4
EU - 19	1.3	1.4	1.4

Source: OECD Social Expenditure database
(www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure)