

Freedom of Information request 238/2014

Received 16 January 2014

Published

Information request

I would like some information regarding waiting times for medical assessments for Personal Independence Payments. Please could you provide me with the following information

- How many people in Brighton & Hove have applied for PIP
- How many of these claims have been processed
- How many are still waiting for their assessments

If possible it would be good to have an idea of average waiting times too.

DWP response

Personal Independence Payment started from April 2013 and although limited data has started to feed through, we need to wait until the Department has quality assured, meaningful figures for publication. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish official statistics on Personal Independence Payment from Spring 2014.

In order to manage the gap between Personal Independence Payment go-live and the first release of Official Statistics in Spring 2014, we are assessing whether we can release some management information. If the quality assurance of this management information shows that it is sufficiently robust and reliable then we aim to publish it via an ad-hoc statistical release.

As we are considering publication of statistics in early 2014, we believe that the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information under the terms of Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act.

It is clearly in the public interest to ensure that publication of PIP statistics is a properly planned and managed process to ensure that the statistics are accurate, robust and comprehensive. It is also in the public interest to ensure that this information is available to all members of the public at the same time.