

Freedom of Information request 1417/2013

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Information request

1. What criteria, if any, are used for the disregard of £500/£1000 savings for claimants making a Community Care Grant application?

2. Why were these limits set for the two different claimant groups?

DWP response

1. If the claimant is aged under 61, or if he has a partner and both are aged under 61, then the savings disregard would be £500; if the claimant, or his partner, is aged 61 or over, then the disregard would be £1,000.

2. Claimants aged 61 or over have a higher disregard, as this age group are closer to, or have reached, minimum pension age, and are in a less likely position to increase their savings. The age for the higher disregard will increase by 1 year every 2 years; this moves current policy broadly in line with pension equalisation.

Claimants under the age of 61 are predominantly in a better position to increase their savings, as they have a significant period of time prior to minimum pension age; hence the lower disregard.