Freedom of Information request 2979/2012

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Information request

I have been asked to investigate whether there is national data available, by upper tier local authority, regarding outcomes of form DS 1500. We also need to make a judgement about whether this data might be a good way to count the number of people known to be approaching the end of life at given times. In the first instance we are seeking top level reports, preferably by local authority, if possible broken down by categories of disease type, gender, and patient age.

DWP response

The information requested regarding categories of disease type for those with main disabling condition recorded as terminally ill is not available.

To obtain this information would require the commissioning of new information. We estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

As discussed, we are unable to provide a local authority breakdown by gender and age due to the small numbers involved. The attached spreadsheet provides information detailing the number of Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance recipients with a main disabling condition recorded as terminally ill by (i) Region, age and gender and (ii) Local Authority and gender.

For information, The Department regularly publishes Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) National Statistics on its website at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool and on NOMIS, the Office for National Statistics official website of labour market statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk. Both websites allow you to construct tables to your own requirements, including information by age, gender.