

Freedom of Information request 1643/2013

Received 03 April
Published

Information request

I SEEK INFORMATION UPON THE LAW WHICH STATES THAT I REQUIRE £71.00 PER WEEK TO LIVE ON UNDER JOBSEEKERS' ALLOWANCE. WHICH ACT OF PARLIAMENT, SECTION AND SUBSECTION. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE AND I REQUIRE IT IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT DWP IS ACTING UNLAWFULLY IN ALLOWING ME ONLY £31.00 PER WEEK.

DWP response

There is no specific law which states that you need a certain amount of money to live on.

Income-related benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance are paid at a rate set by Parliament usually each year.

The amount is intended to cover day-to-day living expenses. In addition, in setting the rates of benefit the Government takes account of the competing demands on public expenditure and work incentives. Benefit rates are not an aggregate of separate amounts for specific items of expenditure such as food or fuel charges. The Government has not prescribed what expenses the personal allowances cover as it is for each individual or family unit to decide how to spend their benefit, in the light of their individual needs and preferences.

There are several different pieces of primary legislation, under which regulations are made, which cover entitlement to, and other aspects of, income-related benefit payments. The main Act which governs Jobseeker's Allowance is Jobseekers Act 1995:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/18/contents>

Information on the amount payable can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/18/section/4>

Guidance on the amount of benefit payable can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dmgch23.pdf>