

Freedom of Information request 2959/2011

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Information request

Demographics and payments to non British Nationals under the welfare system against the total of British passport holders.

What welfare benefits are being received by non British nationals against the total population.

DWP response

Work is underway to consider the development and publication of new statistics on the nationality of DWP benefit claimants.

At present, the specific information sought about the nationality of people claiming benefits is not available. The Department's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits. For contributory benefits nationality is not a qualifying factor, as eligibility is determined by the National Insurance contributions that the claimant has made. For other benefits where residency conditions apply we do need to check nationality to ensure that the claimant is lawfully resident in the country. Therefore for these benefits nationality is established as part of the claims process, but since it not required for further processing the claim, it is not recorded on our computer systems.

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

You may be interested to know that the Department regularly publishes a range of National Statistics on 'National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals' on the Department's website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation

This publication covers registrations by nationality and various other characteristics. The summary tables include a breakdown which shows NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK and claiming an out-

of-work benefit within 6 months of registration, by year of registration from 2002/03 up to 2008/09. See the worksheet 'Benefit' at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/nino_alloc_summ_tables_may11.xls

Please note that the data is a measure of how many National Insurance Numbers (NINo) have been registered to adult overseas nationals at the address they were staying at when they made the NINo application; they are not population or residence measures of the number of foreign nationals living in each area. Please also note that the allocation of a NINo does not give automatic entitlement to benefits, as detailed above.

Further information on the benefit system, the range of benefits available, the rates in payment and eligibility conditions are available on the [Directgov](#) website.

Finally, you may also be interested to know that some management information is available in the case of A8¹ nationals, where data is collected for the 'Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary' which is published quarterly by the Home Office. The publication includes information on applications for income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit who passed the Habitual Residence Test (the test which must be satisfied to access income-related benefits) and were allowed to proceed to the next stage. As already detailed information is not available to show how many went on to actually receive benefit as this information is not recorded by nationality. The publication can be viewed on the Home Office website at (See table 4.5):
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/control-immigration-q1-2011-t/>

¹ Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia