

Freedom of Information requests 4956/4959/4960/4962/2012

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Information request

This Freedom of Information Request relates to the Oral statement on Personal Independence Payment given by Minister for Disabled People Esther McVey to the House of Commons on 13th December 2012.

It was also published by the Department of Work and Pensions on this link

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/ministers-speeches/2012/13-12-12.shtml>

In this oral statement the following factual statements were given:

a) "This year DWP expects to spend over £13 billion on DLA"

b) "As a percentage of GDP, we spend a fifth more than the EU average on disability benefits. "

c) "... and expect to spend more in real terms in 2015/16 than we did in 2009/10."

d) "By October 2015 we estimate we will have reassessed 560,000 claimants."

e) "Of these 160,000 will get a reduced award

f) "and 170,000 will get no award."

g) "However 230,000 will get the same support or more support. "

h) "Under the new criteria, almost a quarter of PIP recipients will get both of the highest rates – worth £134.40 each week – compared to only 16% on DLA. "

1) Could you please provide details of the way that each of these claims were calculated, citing sources for the information.

2) for h) where it says "almost a quarter of PIP recipients will get both of the highest rates" could you please provide the exact percentage and the exact number

DWP response

Thank you for your four Freedom of Information requests dated 13 December 2012 which I have answered in turn below. You have asked for more detailed information following the Ministers' Oral Statement on Personal Independence Payment on 13th December 2012.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you. Although all the information you have requested is already in the public domain, in the interests of customer service I have highlighted where you can find detailed answers to your specific questions and further information.

Request 1: [In relation to] "the Oral statement on Personal Independence Payment given by Minister for Disabled People Esther McVey to the House of Commons on 13th December 2012.

[which] "was also published by the Department of Work and Pensions on this link

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/ministers-speeches/2012/13-12-12.shtml>

In this oral statement the following factual statements were given:

a) "This year DWP expects to spend over £13 billion on DLA"

Information on the current and forecasted DLA/PIP expenditure can be found in table 1b on the medium term forecast for all DWP benefits table. This table provides information on all social security benefit expenditure:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/budget_2012_211212.xls

b) "As a percentage of GDP, we spend a fifth more than the EU average on disability benefits. "

Figures on disability spending in the UK compared with other countries in the European Union have been produced by the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#). More information on this can be found on their website at:

<http://www.oecd.org/els/socialpoliciesanddata/NewTable-Disa-Spending-Values.xls>

c) ".... and expect to spend more in real terms in 2015/16 than we did in 2009/10."

The link I have provided you with in request 1a) also gives you the detail of expenditure comparisons between years for both Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment.

d) "By October 2015 we estimate we will have reassessed 560,000 claimants."

e) "Of these 160,000 will get a reduced award

f) "and 170,000 will get no award."

g) "However 230,000 will get the same support or more support."

h) "Under the new criteria, almost a quarter of PIP recipients will get both of the highest rates – worth £134.40 each week – compared to only 16% on DLA. "

These quotes are drawn from a technical briefing note which was published on 13th December 2012. This note contains details of the finalised reassessment strategy and impacts and can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/disability/personal-independence-payment/briefing-notes/>

1) Could you please provide details of the way that each of these claims were calculated, citing sources for the information.

2) for h) where it says "almost a quarter of PIP recipients will get both of the highest rates" could you please provide the exact percentage and the exact number"

The information you have requested in 1) and 2) above can be found in the technical briefing note published on 13th December (link included above).

Request 2: "Throughout the whole development, we have consulted widely with disabled people.....I would like to thank the individuals and organisations who contributed."

Could you please provide a list of the individuals and organisations that contributed to this consultation

Following the completion of two significant consultations this year and extensive engagement with disabled people and their organisations we published the Government's responses to the consultations on the assessment criteria and the detailed rules underpinning PIP consultations on

13 December 2012. The Government's responses can be found at:
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/>

The Government's responses to the assessment criteria (Annex 2) and detailed design (Annex 3) lists the organisations that responded to our consultations. In addition members of the Implementation Stakeholder Forum (a group of over 60 representatives from disability organisations) and members from the Assessment Development Group (a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people) also provided valuable insight.

The information on individuals is withheld as it falls under the exemption in Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this exemption covers personal information. Personal information about another person cannot be disclosed to a member of the public without the consent of the person who the information is about, as unauthorised disclosure would contravene the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

We have listened to and acted on the huge amount of formal and informal consultation and have made a number of significant changes, most importantly:

- Within the new assessment criteria we have broadened our approach to aids and appliances to include non-specialist aids (such as electric can openers); divided the previous communicating activity into two, to take account of verbal communication and reading and understanding signs, symbols and words.
- Within PIP a temporary absence abroad of 13 weeks will be permitted (or up to 26 weeks if the absence is specifically for medical treatment); we will maintain the reassessment arrangements which allow for a period of four weeks in which to claim PIP, after which DLA will be suspended. But we will also include a discretionary provision to extend this period in exceptional circumstances.
- And we are now going to take more time to get this right by completing reassessment of DLA recipients on a slower timetable – giving greater time to learn and improve if needed.

Request 3:

"By October 2015 we estimate we will have reassessed 560,000 claimants.

Of these 160,000 will get a reduced award and 170,000 will get no award. However 230,000 will get the same support or more support.

Under the new criteria, almost a quarter of PIP recipients will get

both of the highest rates – worth £134.40 each week – compared to only 16% on DLA.

But by reforming the system, ensuring it is fit for the 21st century... we can use the money we spend on disabled people more efficiently and effectively, to help those most in need."

Could you please confirm that it is the intention of the Department for Work and Pensions to remove DLA/PIP from 170,000 people and to reduce DLA/PIP for 160,000 people?"

The technical briefing note published on 13th December provides detailed caseload impacts in relation to DLA and PIP.

I would like to add that this Government is absolutely committed to supporting disabled people to lead full and active independent lives. PIP is a principled reform which will modernise the system for disabled people and ensure support is focused on those with the greatest needs. As a result of these reforms over 230,000 people will receive the same or a higher award under PIP than they currently receive under DLA by October 2015.

The new assessment criteria will help to better reflect individual needs and focus support on those that need it most, ensuring that those who leave the benefit are those with disabilities that have a relatively low impact on their participation in society. Many such people will find that their circumstances have improved since they were last assessed for DLA.

Request 4: [in relation] "to an article in the Daily Mail dated 13th December 2012, featuring Minister for Disabled People Esther McVey entitled "Disability handouts to be cut or stopped for 330,000 claimants as Government aims to end 'welfare for life'"

The article is included in the following link:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2247290/Disability-handouts-cut-stopped-330-000-claimants-Government-aims-end-welfare-life.html>

This article contained the following factual claims:

a) "New figures show 71 per cent of claimants do not go through proper checks"

I can confirm that 71% of the current DLA caseload has an indefinite award. Although we are able to reassess the level of award of any customer at any time, we do not currently have any systematic way of ensuring that awards

remain correct which means individuals can continue to receive an incorrect award after their needs have changed.

Under Personal Independence Payment, other than in exceptional circumstances, awards will be for a fixed period so that awards remain correct. We will take a personalised approach to setting the length of awards, varying the frequency and format of awards and reviews depending on the individual's needs and the likelihood of their health condition or impairment changing.

Table 3 of ad hoc analysis provides information on DLA awards:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/analysis_of_disability_living_allowance_DLA_awards.pdf

b) "Without reform, one in every 17 adults would be claiming DLA by 2018 says Disability minister "

c) "Ministers intend to reassess an initial 560,000 claimants, and expect that 330,000 – nearly 60 per cent – will get no award or a reduced sum after the checks."

d) "There are currently 3.2million adults claiming disability living allowance (DLA), costing Britain £13.2billion a year – equivalent to the entire budget for the Department for Transport. "

Information on d) can be found using the link I have provided in request 1(a)

e) "Disability minister Esther McVey said without reform, one in every 17 adults would be claiming DLA by 2018. "

h) "She added that about a third of people with a disability had a change in a condition in a year – some for the worse, but many for the better."

The technical briefing note published on 13th December provides information on b), c) and e).

Information regarding how disabled people's impairments may change over time (h) has been drawn from the results of the Life Opportunities Survey, which can be accessed via:

<http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/los/index.php?page=los>

i) "The Tory minister said the vast majority of claimants – 71 per cent – get the benefit 'for life', often having filled in an initial claim form about their capability themselves."

This information can be found on the link I have provided for request 4(a).

1) Could you please confirm that the information for each of these claims originated from Esther McVey and/or the Department for Work and Pensions

2) Could you please, for each of the statements a)-i), provide details of the way that each of these claims were calculated, citing sources for the information.

3) for h) "a third of people with a disability had a change in a condition in a year – some for the worse, but many for the better."

could you please:

a) give the exact percentage and number of people who have a change in condition in a year that the claim h) is based on

b) state the proportion and number of those who experience change for the better

c) state the proportion and number of those who experience change for the worse

I can confirm that these quotes are based upon published information. Detailed statistics on current DLA caseloads have been produced in ad hoc publications and I have set out the relevant links to all these documents above.