

Freedom of Information request 2049/2011

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Information request

"I have today received the attached information...I would like to know if these assertions are correct and if so how they can be justified?"

The British Government provides the following financial assistance: -

- BRITISH OLD AGED PENSIONER (bearing in mind they worked hard and paid their Income Tax and National Insurance contributions to the British government all their working life) Weekly allowance: **£106.00**
- IMMIGRANTS/REFUGEES LIVING IN BRITAIN (No Income Tax and National Insurance contribution whatsoever) Weekly allowance: **£250.00**
- BRITISH OLD AGED PENSIONER Weekly Spouse allowance: **£25.00**
- ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS/REFUGEES LIVING IN BRITAIN Weekly Spouse allowance: **£225.00**
- BRITISH OLD AGED PENSIONER Additional weekly hardship allowance **£0.00**
- ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS/REFUGEES LIVING IN BRITAIN Additional weekly hardship allowance **£100.00**

A British old age pensioner is no less hard up than an illegal immigrant/refugee yet receives nothing

- BRITISH OLD AGED PENSIONER TOTAL YEARLY BENEFIT **£6,000**
- ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS/REFUGEES LIVING IN BRITAIN TOTAL YEARLY BENEFIT: **£29,900**

DWP response

I should first clarify that illegal immigrants are by definition unable to claim or qualify for any benefits whatsoever as they are usually living in the UK unknown to the relevant authorities.

There is no standard benefit that asylum seekers can receive in the way suggested by the information you have received. Since 3 April 2000, asylum seekers who require assistance are offered support by way of a cash

allowance for living expenses and in some cases, accommodation. This scheme is administered by the Home Office's Asylum Support Service. The weekly asylum support rates from April 2011 are £36.62 for a single person and £72.52 for a couple over age 18.

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. As a consequence we must fully honour our obligation to consider all applications for asylum made in this country or at our ports. In order to qualify for asylum a person must be outside his or her country of nationality and have a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

In the event of an asylum seeker being granted refugee status, they are subject to the same rules of entitlement to benefit, and rates of benefit, as United Kingdom citizens.