

Freedom of Information request 1285/2014

Received 19 March 2014

Published

Information request

Please advise the number of people who qualified for a basic state pension for the first time in 2013, i.e. the number of newcomers added. If the information is not available yet for 2013, then please provide for the last 12 month period for which data is available, indicating the time period provided.

Please also advise the number of people who qualified for an additional state pension for the first time during the same time period as provided in response to the previous question above. The additional state pension has also been known as the state second pension or SERPS.

DWP response

A quarterly time series of flows into state pension is published on the DWP Tabulation Tool here:

http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/rp/cdquarter/ccsex/a_carate_r_cdquarter_c_ccsex.html

This shows that, in the year to February 2013 616,000 people flowed in to the state pension system. While the vast majority will be claiming Basic State Pension, a few thousand of these people would have Additional Pension (AP) or Graduated Retirement Benefit (GRB) only.

We do not publish inflow statistics for Additional Pension. Based on more detailed administrative data we estimate that in the year to March 31st 2013 576,000 people flowed on to Additional Pension. Note that since this information is not available from the same source as the published figures above, the time frame for the data is not exactly the same. This data source may also slightly undercount the number of inflows as it will not capture individuals who flow on and off in the six months between scans.

This estimate includes recipients of SERPS, State Second Pension and GRB. It is limited to only those payments based on an individual's own National Insurance record, excluding any inherited payments. It also excludes people who receive no Additional Pension due to having been contracted out of the earnings related elements of the state pension system.

It should also be noted that due to the equalisation of State Pension age for men and women, the number of inflows is lower than normal. Less than a full cohort of women reach state pension age each year while their state pension age is being raised.