

# Freedom of Information request 1137/2013

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## Information request

*My question to you is in April 2010 when the new ruling to do with age for pensioners commenced I became a pensioner in May 2010, which meant that instead of receiving my pension on the first Monday after my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday as it was before April 2010. And from April 2010 pensioners received their (like my self) are paid in arrears. As I am paid in arrears of my retirement pensions, and receive some housing benefit, can you please tell me should I pay my housing benefit at the time as my pension is paid in arrears. Which pensioners from April 2010 are the losers and pensioners before April 2010 are not, I believe that to be fair that pensions after the date of April 2010 should pay their rent with housing benefit in arrears of our pension. I wait for your response in this matter.*

## DWP response

State Pension started to be paid in arrears from a payday determined by National Insurance number from 6 April 2010. This brought different benefit payment periods in line, making it easier for customers to understand and for the Department to administer.

Housing Benefit is also paid in arrears and a person is entitled to benefit from the start of the benefit week following the date on which their claim is or is treated as made. Furthermore, a change of circumstances which affects entitlement to or the amount of Housing Benefit, will take effect from the first day of the benefit week following the date on which the change of circumstance actually occurs.

There are similar arrangements for the award of State Pension and the treatment of any relevant changes and therefore entitlement to Housing Benefit or State Pension should not be adversely affected in these circumstances.

Regarding your question on how you should pay your rent, we cannot provide advice on this matter.