Freedom of Information request 106/2012

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Information request

Readily available figures regarding how much DWP currently spends on employing dedicated staff with a specific remit to publicise the availability of benefits.

I would also like to know whether the press office's remit includes publicising the availability of benefits and whether there is any specific allocation for this in the press office's budget.

DWP response

DWP does not employ staff with the sole remit of publicising the availability of benefits and no specific budget is allocated to this task, but of course, as part of their work, staff do inform the public of the availability of benefits. Jobcentre Plus offices and Directgov, the public-facing Government website, contain information on benefits

Press Officers will provide information to journalists and publications about benefits, eligibility and how to claim them, but have no specific allocation for such work.