

Freedom of Information request 2003/2013

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Information request

1) Please could you tell me how much in monetary terms you are planning to devolve to Local Authorities & Devolved Governments in 2015 after closure of the ILF, and also how that funding will be identified (will it have a specific title/reference).

2) Please could you tell me if this devolved funding is intended just as a 1 year transitional arrangement or will money be set aside each year to be devolved in the same way, and how will this money be identified within the overall Social Care Budget.

3) Please could you tell me where this money will be allocated from, in both 2015 and in subsequent years, and would it be the intention to increase or reduce this specific part of funding over the years. Will the money still be specifically identified as ex ILF funding?

DWP response

It is not possible at this time to determine precisely what sums will be devolved to each Local Authority or Devolved Administration from April 2015. The total funding available to be devolved is determined as a part of a routine review of all Government expenditure (known as a 'Spending Review' or 'Spending Round'). A Spending Round process is currently underway that will determine the funding allocations relating to the devolution of ILF funding for the financial year 2015/16 and, as such, decisions on funding have not yet been taken. As the Spending Round taking place in 2013 is solely to determine budgets for the 2015/16 financial year later years' funding for the ILF will be determined in a later Spending Review (the timing of which is not currently known but is expected to be after the next election). This is true for ex-ILF funding as well as all other aspects of central government-funded public expenditure.

Similarly, prior to the decision to devolve funding to Local Authorities and Devolved Administrations, no decisions had been taken on what funds would be available to the Independent Living Fund as this too would have been determined as part of a Spending Review.

After the closure of the Independent Living Fund in 2015, responsibility for funding support for former ILF users will be transferred from DWP to the Department of Health and to the Department of Communities and Local Government (in England) and the Devolved Administrations (in Scotland and Wales).

The decision to close the Independent Living Fund was taken on 12 December 2012. Since then we have been working to design the most effective mechanism to transfer funds to Local Authorities and Devolved Administrations in 2015. This design process will be completed in good time for the transfer of responsibility in April 2015, but details of from where this budget would be transferred, how this funding might be identified and how the transfer would operate on an ongoing basis are not yet finalised.