

Freedom of Information request 1492/2013

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Information request

- 1) *As far as the EU is concerned, are you able to access information on whether a person is receiving social security benefits in another EU country?*
- 2) *As far as the EU is concerned, are you able to access information on whether a person has property in another EU country?*
- 3) *If yes, how is this made? Do you need any special authority to ask for this disclosure from other EU countries and do these countries have an obligation to provide you with this information straightaway?*
- 4) *When are such requests made?*

DWP response

The coordination of social security systems in the European Economic Area and Switzerland is governed by Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and its amending Regulations (EC) No 987/2009 and 465/2012. These can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=867>

The Regulations provide for the exchange of information for people moving between Member States. Article 76 of Regulation 883 places a duty of information sharing and cooperation on the authorities and institutions and for them to communicate with one another for the purposes of the Regulation.

The social security information required by an individual to take with them to another EU country is provided on a standardised form called a portable document. There are ten documents covering areas such as healthcare, pensions, unemployment benefit or social security information required by the authorities when people are sent to work in another country by their employer. Details are publicly available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=868>

Portable documents and requests for information are issued when necessary by the competent social security institution where the person is insured; or when a person has made a claim for benefit and the social security institution in the Member State where the claim has been made requires further information from another Member State.

Further information is available at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=850>