

Freedom of Information request IR 226/2013

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Information request

You asked for a review of the response to your FOI request of 4th February 2013 (ref: 543).

Your review asks:

“The DWP must be able to tell me how many people have made applications for winter fuel allowance from 2012 to present? This must be recorded on-going or can be accessed with relative ease?”

Your original request was:

“With regards to the 2011 Court of Justice of the European Union judgement C-503/09 which allows people living in EEA states and Switzerland with a genuine link to the UK to make claims for the Winter Fuel Allowance even if they did not acquire the WFP in the UK:

- 1. How many Winter Fuel Allowance claims have you received from people living abroad for the period 2012-present?*
- 2. And what is the total sum of monies paid in Winter Fuel Allowance from 2012- present?*

Please break down the payments by country, including Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Réunion.”

DWP response

The response to your original question outlined that the information requested was not available.

Following an internal review I conclude that only partial information is held as payments sent out by the Winter Fuel Payment Computer system can still be processed up until the June following the winter the payment relates to. Complete statistics are not therefore available until September of each year, once the full information has been processed.

As the Department plans to publish the full information in September 2013 it is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Fol Act (intended for future publication).

The information requested in questions 1 and 2 will be made available for the winter 2012/13 in September 2013. Information for payments up to winter 2011/12 can be accessed at the following web-link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/wfp_eea_residents_publication.xls

Information on payments to Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Réunion are not available. These territories are classified as Departments of France and as such are treated as any other part of France. Outside of the UK, no further breakdown of payments beyond country level is possible.