

Freedom of Information request 1473/2014

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Information request

Your letter of 31 March refers – the relevant extracts are reproduced below.

It is only since making a claim for a State Pension that I have become aware of this ludicrous and more the point inequitable situation of staggered payment dates for new claimants based on the last two digits of the National Insurance number. Knowing now that this present system has been in place since 1948 makes it even more scandalous that nothing has been done to change the arrangements by this and previous administrations.

Could you please supply chapter and verse from the legislation that provides these arrangements? I make this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Also, could you please explain why your department does not inform new claimants of State Pension that they have an option to have payments made weekly in arrears?

DWP response

Regulation 10 of the National Insurance Claims and Payments (General Regulations) 1948 SI1040 said:

“(1)...pensions shall be paid weekly in advance by means of a pension orders payable in each case to the pensioner...

(4) Weekly sums on account of pensions shall be payable on different days of the week as follows:-

(a)

(b) in the case of retirement pension – on Thursday or Fridays, as shall be fixed by the Minister in any particular case or class of cases.”

The only change between 1948 and the change to the payday being determined by the National Insurance Number (NINO) in 2009, was that the standard payday first became a Thursday and then a Monday. It was always payable weekly, that is, in full weeks.

The NINO regulation is reproduced below – it was introduced by Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 6) Regulations 2009/3229

Retirement pension

22C.—(1) This regulation applies in relation to payment of a retirement pension to persons who reach pensionable age on or after 6th April 2010...

(2) ...a retirement pension shall be paid weekly, fortnightly or four weekly (as the Secretary of State may in any case determine) in arrears on the day of the week specified in paragraph (3).

(3) The day specified for the purposes of paragraph (2) is the day in column (2) which corresponds to the series of numbers in column (1) which includes the last 2 digits of the person's national insurance number—

00 to 19 Monday

20 to 39 Tuesday

40 to 59 Wednesday

60 to 79 Thursday

80 to 99 Friday

DWP seeks to keep its leaflets as short and simple as possible, and we concentrate on telling people what they need to know at the time they need to know it. Information about the frequency of payments is provided for new claimants with the first two payments made. Those who wish to change the frequency of their payment can do so at that time or at a later date if they elect to do so.