

Freedom of Information request 2404/2013

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Information request

Could I request under the Freedom of Information act, details of the total numbers of Motability cars paid for individuals including the amount of gross spend on the same by government for the last full financial year. Please provide dates to and from in the reply. An email reply will be sufficient

DWP response

Disabled people who receive the higher rate Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or the enhanced rate of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (£55.25 per week from April 2013) are able to exchange some or all of this award to lease or buy cars, powered wheelchairs and scooters.

Motability is an independent charity wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. While the Department works closely with Motability and facilitates the transfer of benefit to the scheme it does not systematically collect management information on the scheme. The department does not hold the information you have requested on the number of Motability cars.

Motability is largely self-funding. The only direct funding DWP provides is for the Specialised Vehicle Fund (SVF). (£17 million in the last financial year plus a further £1 million for the administration budget). The SVF provides financial assistance to those severely disabled scheme customers who require complex vehicle adaptations that allow them to enter a car as a passenger while remaining seated in their wheelchair or enables them to drive their car whilst remaining seated in their wheelchair.

More information is available on the Motability website www.motability.co.uk including the charity's annual report and accounts.