

Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme Official Statistics

April 2014 to September 2016

Data to 30 September 2016

Biannually

Published: 31 January 2017

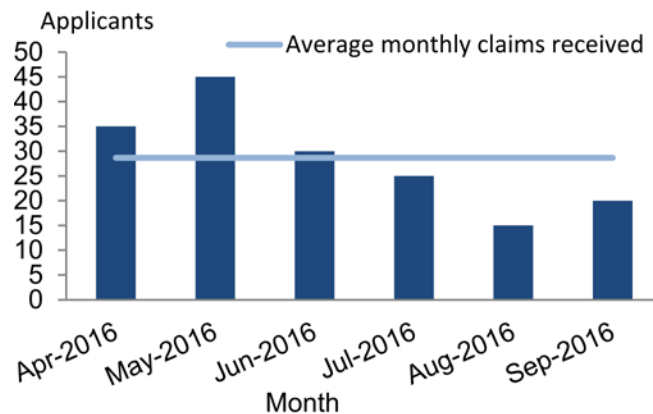
Great Britain

Official

The Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS) was launched throughout the UK on 6 April 2014. It provides payments to eligible sufferers of diffuse mesothelioma, or their eligible dependants, who were negligently exposed to asbestos during a period of employment, but who are unable to take legal action to seek financial redress via the civil courts. The DMPS is paid for via a levy on the insurance industry. This is the fourth official statistics publication in this series. The third release contained statistics reporting on the DMPS, including applications received, success rates, and payments from April 2014 to March 2016 inclusive. This release updates it with April 2016 to September 2016 data.

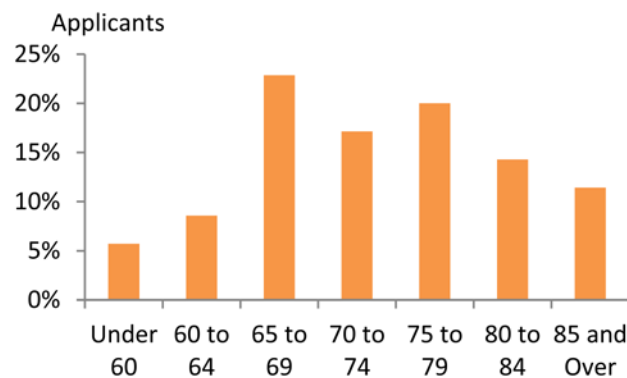
Main stories

Total applicants



Total applicants average (mean) 29 per month since April 2016.

Age at diagnosis



In months April 2016 to September 2016 inclusive applicants were predominantly in the 65-79 age groups.

Success

66%

66 per cent of applicants have been successful in months April 2016 to July 2016 inclusive.*

* The last two months, August and September 2016, have been excluded due to a relatively large number of pending applications.

At a glance

Page

Applications	3
Applicants	4
Applicant age	5
Payments	6
Reviews & Complaints	7
About these statistics	8

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Thoughts? We welcome [feedback](#)

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What you need to know

The DMPS was established under powers set out in the Mesothelioma Act 2014. It makes payments to people diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012 who contracted the disease as a result of negligent exposure to asbestos at work in the United Kingdom, and who are unable to claim damages because the employer no longer exists and the employer's liability insurer cannot be traced. Payments can also be made to eligible dependents of people who have died as a result of the disease before they could make an application to the Scheme.

The Scheme is funded by a levy on the insurance industry. Regulations require active employers' liability insurers to pay an annual levy based on their relative market share for the purpose of meeting the full costs of the Scheme (for example, the capital payments made to applicants, administration costs, costs associated with collecting the levy). In the first year of the Scheme's operation (April 2014 to March 2015) the levy was £32m. The levy for the financial year 2015/16 was set at £23.2m.

Official statistics relating to the Scheme are released every six months and are sourced from data originally collected by Gallagher Basset International Ltd (the Scheme Administrator) on behalf of the DWP. To reflect any updates, the full historical statistical series will be refreshed with each release and so previous figures may be updated based on new data. For example, applications with pending decisions may become successful or unsuccessful in subsequent releases.

Summary of additional available data

All the information underpinning the charts and figures featured in this summary is included in accompanying excel tables.

Notes

To avoid disclosing information about individual applicants, all volumes have been rounded to the nearest 5, percentages to the nearest 1 per cent, total payment to the nearest £0.1 million and average payments to the nearest £1,000. Consequently, there may be slight discrepancies in final figures due to rounding.

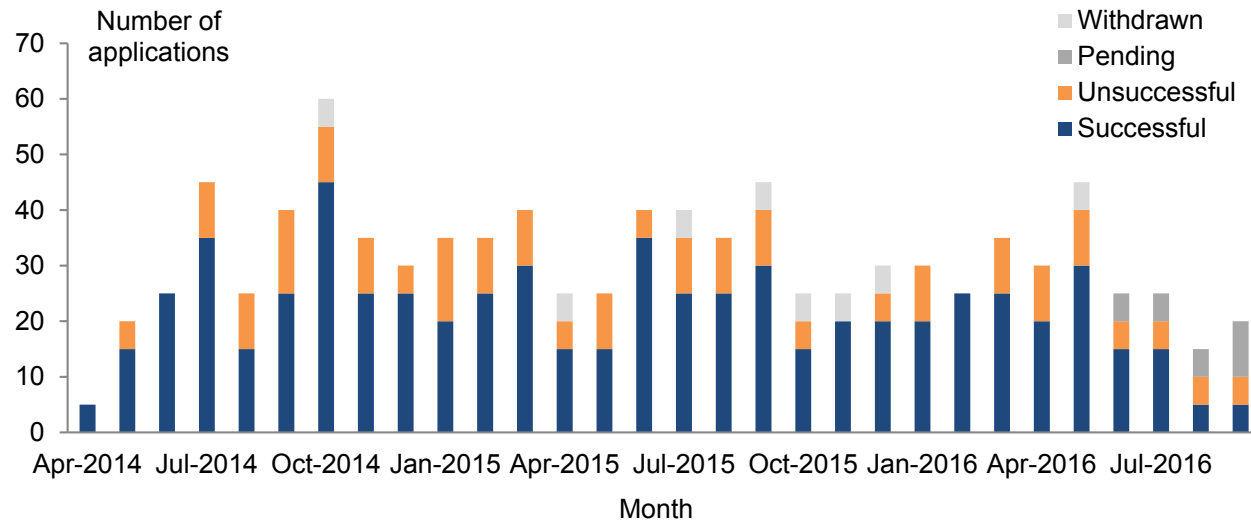
Data covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2016 although it is acknowledged that the scheme did not open to receive applications until 6 April 2014.

We welcome feedback on the material provided to improve future releases.

Applications

About two thirds of applications have been successful this year.

Applications received by the Scheme may be recorded as successful, unsuccessful, withdrawn or have a decision pending.

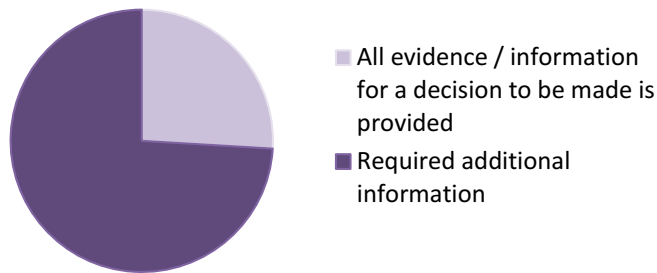


Two thirds (66 per cent) of all applications received from April to July 2016 have been successful compared to 68 per cent across all months since April 2014 (including pending applications). In the last 6 months (April to September 2016), 24 per cent of applications have been unsuccessful, 14 per cent have pending decisions and 3 per cent have been withdrawn.

The last two months (August and September 2016) have been significantly impacted by pending applications. Over the next few months pending applications will turn into successful or unsuccessful, which will be recorded under the month the application was received.

Removing pending applicants, 69 per cent of applications received in the last 6 months were successful; this figure increases to 70 per cent across all months since April 2014.

Three quarters of applications required additional info, however this rate has dropped dramatically for this year.



In the last 6 months, 63 per cent of applications required more information than was initially provided in order for a decision to be made, compared to 74 per cent overall since April 2014. Where an applicant believes they are entitled to claim, early completion of the application is encouraged.

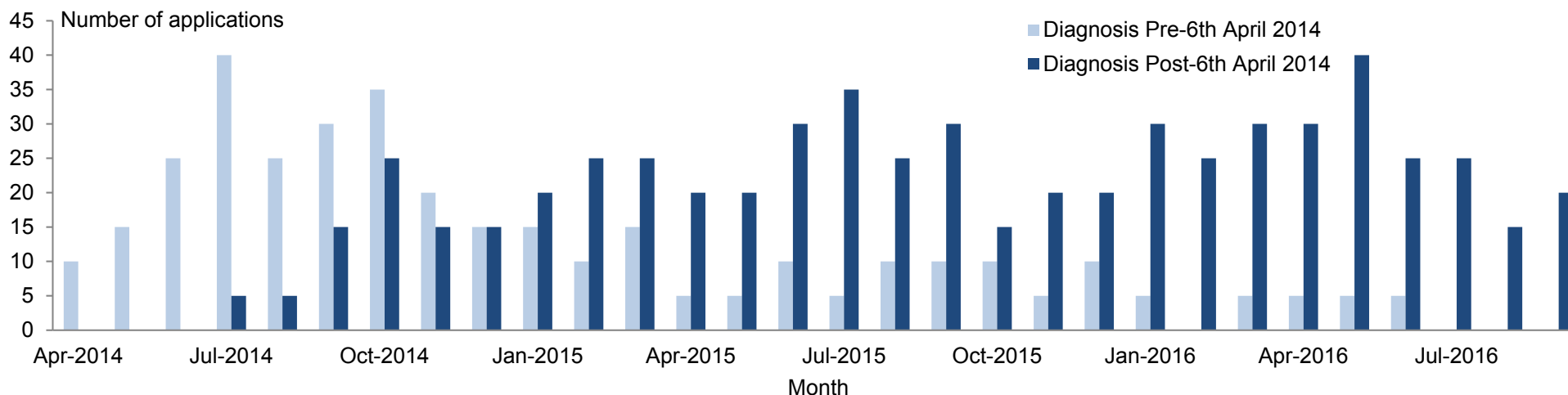
The Scheme Administrator acknowledges receipt and holds the claim until all the necessary evidence is provided by the applicant. Some evidence can be more difficult to obtain, for example, if the applicant is required to trace ex-employers/employers' liability insurers where a significant time lapse may have occurred.

Note: the chart above shows the proportion based on all months since April 2014.

Applicants

Number of applicants diagnosed pre-6th April 2014 has tailed off.

The Scheme launched on 6 April 2014, accepting applications from individuals diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012.



Initially the bulk of applications received related to a diagnosis pre-6 April 2014. This may have included a 'stock' of eligible people waiting for the Scheme to open. Since January 2015 more applications have been received from individuals diagnosed after the Scheme was launched on 6 April 2014 than from those diagnosed pre-6 April 2014, and from July 2016 almost all applications received have been from individuals diagnosed after 6th April 2014.

The majority of applicants have been male.



The vast majority (91 per cent) of applicants in the last 6 months have been male. Across all months, this figure increases to 93 per cent. The higher male figures reflect the professions where exposure to asbestos and therefore the risk of suffering from diffuse mesothelioma have been high. For example carpenters, plumbers, electricians, dockers, ship builders and metal workers in the 1960s and 70s¹.

Note: the chart above shows the proportion based on all months since April 2014.

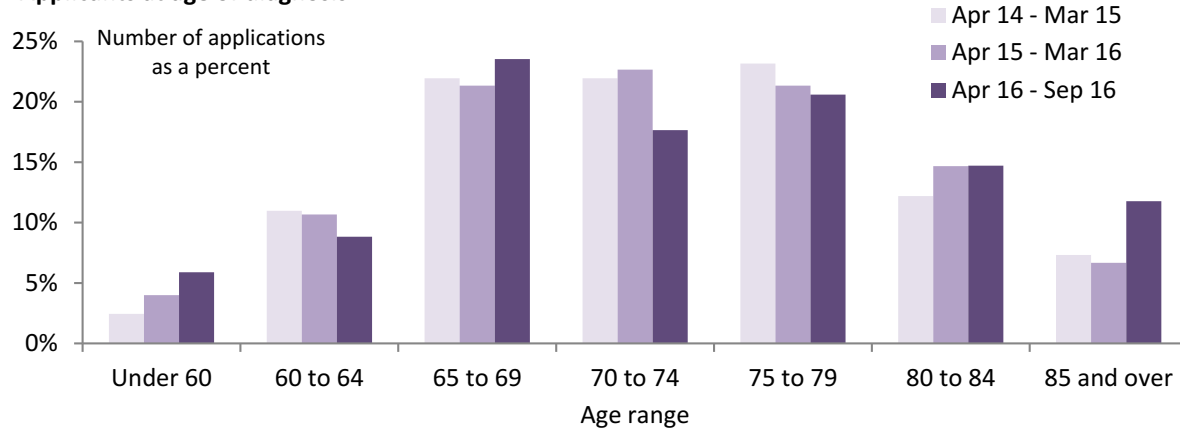
¹ Source: Institute of Cancer Research and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for HSE (2009) "Occupational, domestic and environmental mesothelioma risks in Britain."

Applicant Age

Applicants' age at diagnosis is predominantly in the 65 to 79 age group.

There are no age restrictions on applicants but the amount received will depend on the age of the applicant at the point of diagnosis.

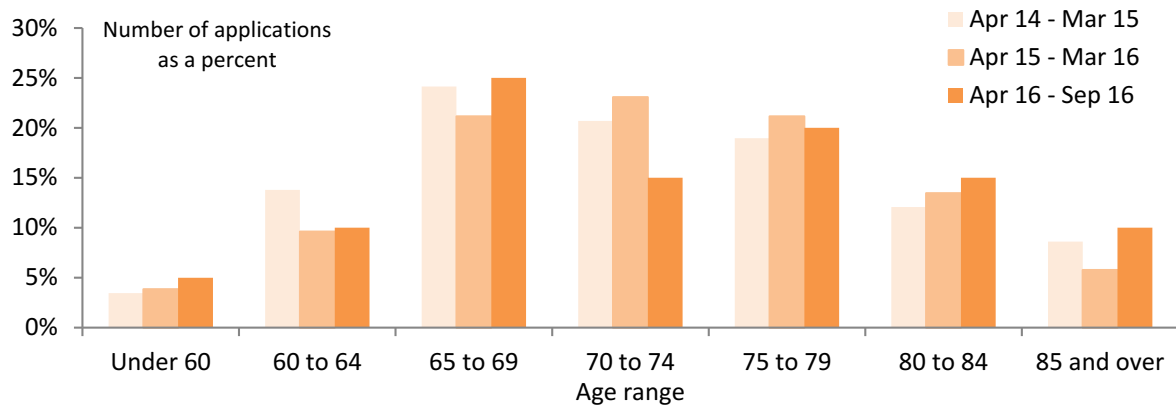
Applicants at age of diagnosis



There have been no fundamental changes in applicant age range spread in the last 6 months compared to the previous 12 months. However, disaggregated data suggests a minor shift towards younger age in general.

The last 6 months to 30 September 2016 have seen a general drop in the proportion of applications from those aged 70-84, and in particular from those aged 70-74 (a drop of 6 percentage points) while a greater proportion of applications have been made by those under 60 and 65-69.

Successful applicants age at diagnosis

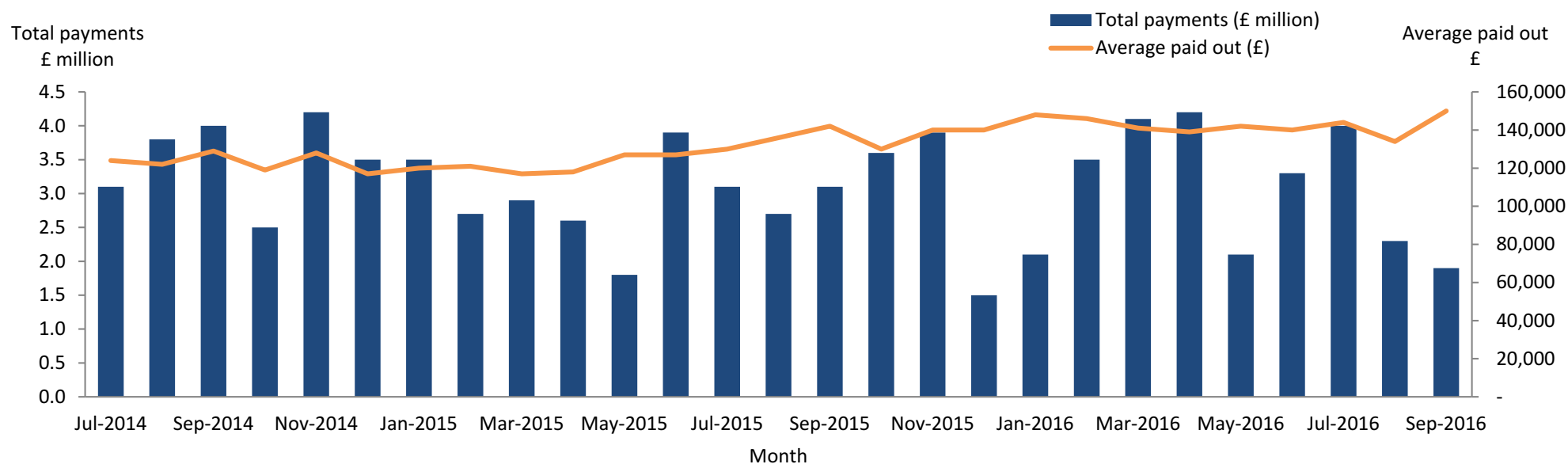


Around 60 percent of successful applicants were aged between 65 and 79. This is lower than in the previous 12 months, when 65 per cent were between 65 and 79. This is mainly due to a drop in the applications from those aged 70-74 this year.

Payments

Over £84 million awarded in compensation since April 2014.

Between April 2014 and February 2015 the Scheme regulations specified that successful applicants be paid equivalent to 80% of the average payment they would have received if they had been successful through the civil courts system. In February 2015, the scheme's tariff payment was increased to 100% of average equivalent civil compensation payments for those that were diagnosed either on or after 10th February 2015. Due to the time taken from application to decision, generally, the full effects of the change are not seen in average award figures until May 2015 onwards.

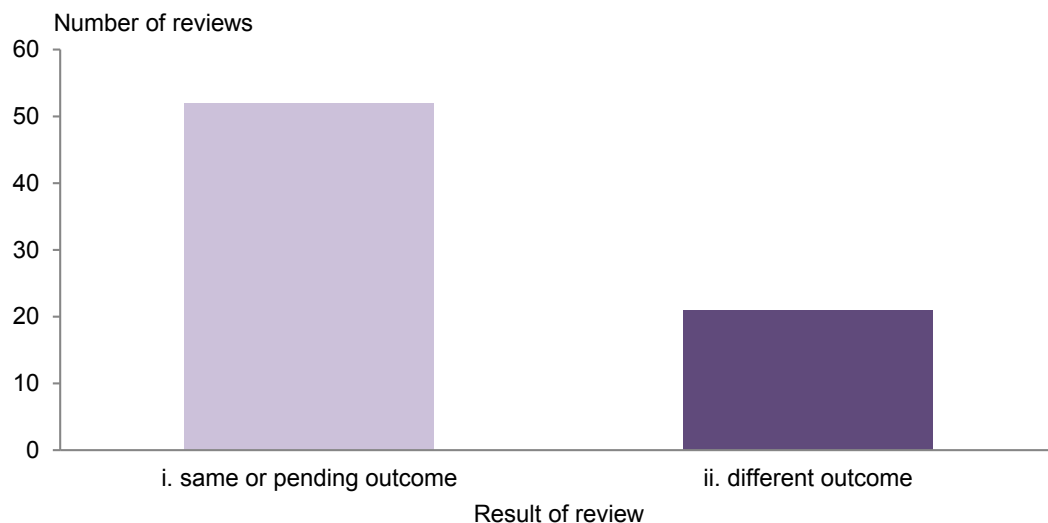


The average (mean) award to successful applicants in the 6 months to September 2016 was around £141,000, up from £135,000 in 2015/16.

Since July 2014, a total of £84.1 million has been awarded. This consists of £68.5 million of direct payments to applicants and £15.6m which was repaid to the Department for Work and Pensions. Where a person has already received government payments in respect of diffuse mesothelioma, this money is recovered from Scheme payments in accordance with the well-established principle that people should not receive money twice in respect of the same injury or disease. The liability to repay social security benefits rests with the person who makes the compensation payment (in this case the Scheme Administrator) and not the person suffering from the disease.

Reviews and Complaints

Over one quarter of reviews resulted in a different outcome for the applicant.



Note: the chart above shows the proportion based on all months since April 2014.

If an applicant is unhappy with the outcome of their claim they may request that Gallagher Bassett review the decision of their application, giving reasons why they feel the decision was incorrect. If an applicant remains dissatisfied once the review has been completed, they may request that an independent appeal tribunal (known as the first tier tribunal) consider their case.

There were 40 unsuccessful applicants between April 2016 and September 2016, 10 of which have been reviewed – this is equivalent to 27% which is slightly higher than the previous 12 months of 25%. Since April 2014 there have been 75 reviews from the 230 unsuccessful applicants. Combined, over a quarter (20) of these 75 reviewed decisions resulted in a different outcome. This was often because additional information was supplied by the applicant that had not been available to the Scheme Administrator at the time of the first decision.

A negligible number of applicants were unhappy with their review decision and chose to refer their case to the First-tier Tribunal in last 6 months, compared to 20 in total since April 2014.

There have been no complaints made by applicants since the Scheme was first introduced.

About these statistics

Useful links

More information can be found about the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme at: <https://mesoscheme.org.uk> or www.gov.uk/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment/overview

The previous three publications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment-scheme-statistics>

Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- A list of Tabulation Tools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>;
- In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, all DWP National Statistics are announced at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>

If you would like to receive occasional e-mails from DWP to directly inform you of documents seeking the views of users, please email general.statistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk giving details of the DWP publications you use.