

Freedom of Information request 548 /2014

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Information request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

Please supply the average (mean) clearance time for Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) "special rules" claims. That is for people claiming using a DS1500 form certifying that they have a terminal illness. By "clearance time" I mean the time between a new claim being registered and a decision being made.

Please provide monthly average figures ranging from April 2013 to the present

Please provide monthly figures for the absolute numbers of PIP Special Rules claims received since April 2013, and monthly figures for the absolute numbers of claims being cleared within the following time scales, since April 2013:

0-2 weeks
2-4 weeks
4-6 weeks
6-8 weeks
Over 8 weeks

Please provide absolute numbers of any PIP Special Rules claims since April 2013 which were cleared after the claimant died

If you anticipate the request will exceed the cost limit, please provide quarterly figures instead of monthly.

If you do not hold the above information in the format requested, please supply whatever relevant data you do hold.

And on 11 February 2014 you also asked:

Since submitting the request, I have been made aware of a previous FOI request asking for similar information:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/pip_applications_under_special_r

Therefore, please can I make the following points?

DWP has stated in its Statistical Release Strategy that “operational information on clearance times” will not be included

DWP previously released information on clearance times for DLA claims under special rules:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223063/analysis_of_disability_living_allowance_DLA_awards.pdf

The Minister Mike Penning told the DWP Select Committee on December 11th that he was “asking for data” regarding clearance times and could see no reason why the information could not be supplied to the committee.

DWP response

Personal Independence Payment started from April 2013 and although limited data has started to feed through, we need to wait until the Department has quality assured, meaningful figures for publication. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish official statistics on personal independence payment from spring 2014.

We are currently unable to answer your request, however, in order to manage the gap between PIP go-live, and the first release of Official Statistics in Spring 2014, an ad-hoc release of available PIP management information was published on GOV.UK on Tuesday 11 February 2014.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ad-hoc-statistical-analysis-2014-quarter-1>