

# Freedom of Information request 1155/2014

Received 12 March 2014

Published

## Information request

1. Since October 2012 (when auto-enrolment was introduced) how many people have opted out? Please provide this figure as a total figure (in 00s) and as a percentage of those that are enrolled (% have opted out)
2. Among those who have opted out - please can you tell us when they opted out by year? (i.e. the number who opted out in 2012, 2013 and so far 2014)
3. How old are those who have opted out? Please can you break it down by the following ages: 18-25, 25-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60+ and gender breakdowns for these figures.
4. The number of businesses who have failed to comply with auto enrolment by year (2012, 2013 and 2014).

## DWP response

The Department does not receive administrative data that captures the total number of opt outs, as such the requested figures are not available. To support the evaluation of the reforms, the Department commissioned qualitative research on opt out levels with large employers (representative of over 1.9m workers). A statistical release containing findings around opt outs and some limited information about opt out rates by age group was published in August 2013, it is available at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/227039/opt-out-research-large-employers-ad\\_hoc.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/227039/opt-out-research-large-employers-ad_hoc.pdf)

The full research paper was published in October 2013 and is available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automatic-enrolment-qualitative-research-with-large-employers-rr851>

As part of the research on opt out levels with large employers, a series of interviews were conducted with individuals who had chosen to opt out. A report on the findings from these interviews was published in March 2014 and is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automatic-enrolment-experiences-of-workers-who-have-opted-out-a-qualitative-research-study>

Information on compliance is collected by The Pensions Regulator, with whom all employers are required to register as part of their automatic enrolment duties. Your request has been forwarded to them and they will respond in due course. The Pensions Regulator website can be found at the following link:

<http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk>