

Freedom of Information request 2954/2013

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Information request

From April 2013 the DWP abolished the discretionary social fund (i.e. Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for Living Expenses). Funding was allocated to top tier local authorities to provide Local Welfare Assistance in its place.

In January 2012, Lord De Mauley announced in the House of Lords that:

*“Following the introduction of localised assistance, the department has already made plans to conduct a review in 2014-15 to obtain appropriate information from a representative cross-section of at least 50 local authorities, which represents one-third of the total, in order to help inform future funding levels. We have committed to using this opportunity to gather further information about the way in which local authorities have used the funding.”
(See House of Lords Debate 25 January 2012 column 1073).*

Please could you:

- 1. Confirm that a review of Local Welfare Provision is still planned to take place in 2014-15 and approximately when it is due to be published.*
- 2. Describe what questions the review will seek to answer.*
- 3. Confirm if the department plans to run a consultation to inform the future of Local Welfare Provision and/or its funding beyond 2014/15.*

DWP response

I can confirm a review is still planned to take place in 2014-15. Whilst the review will seek to find out how the funding has been used, final decisions are still to be made on the format and publication date. No further consultations are planned.