

Freedom of Information request

2013-2765

Received 17th June 2013

Published 15th July 2013

Information request

Please advise me of the following numbers relating to the UK state pension using the most recent one year period for which data are available.

In each of the following categories, how many people started receiving their state pension, and what was the total of all pensions paid out?

Pensioners resident in the UK.

Pensioners resident in EU countries.

Pensioners resident in reciprocal agreement countries.

Pensioners resident in countries where the pension is frozen.

DWP response

In response to your question on how many people started receiving their state pension please see the attached document (FOI 2013-2765 Response.xls) which shows the number of State Pension on flows (people who started to receive the benefit) by country (**Please note this is the current country of residence and will include a small number of cases where the country given is not the country in which the person was resident when they started to receive the benefit**) in 2011/2012 which is the latest data available.

The Department publishes National Statistics on State Pension flows through its Tabulation Tool which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics#tabulation-tool>

However we do not publish flows information by country therefore the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

In response to your question on “**what was the total of all pensions paid paid out**” unfortunately, we are unable to proceed with your request without

clarification of the information you wish to receive. To help us do so we would like to know if your question relates to:

- a) the total **number of people** in receipt of State Pension or
- b) the total **expenditure** paid to people in receipt of State Pension or
- c) the total **expenditure** paid to people who **started** to receive State Pension or
- d) something other than the breakdowns we have suggested.

Please note that if I do not receive appropriate clarification of your information requirements within three months from the date of this letter, then I will consider your request closed.

In relation to a) and b) mentioned above you may be interested to know that the Department publishes State Pension caseloads and expenditure by country.

For example to produce a table on the number of people in receipt of State Pension by country go to the

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics> website and follow the instructions below.

1. Select the [tabulation tool](#) link
2. In the **Caseload statistics** section select the [Benefit caseload national statistics \(WPLS data\) \(includes ESA\)](#) link
3. In the **Benefit/Scheme** drop down menu select **State Pension**
4. In the **Analysis** drop down menu select **Caseload (Thousands)**
5. In the **Row** drop down menu select **Country code for abroad cases**
6. From the **Column** drop down menus select from the available options
7. Now select from the options in the **Subset** and **Date** menus and click **Get Table**. Please note that the latest data available is at the **30th of November 2012**.

State Pension expenditure data by country is published on the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-pension-expenditure-by-country-of-residence>

Tables SP2 and SP3, which can be accessed via the link above, show expenditure by country in nominal and real terms respectively, and indicate the countries in which the State Pension is frozen. These tables show expenditure in Great Britain (not UK). State Pension expenditure in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development.

More information on State Pension arrangements in different countries can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/international/benefits/state%2Dpension/>