

Freedom of Information request 420/2014

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Information request

Today the DWP released the number of alignment crisis loans issued in each of the three months between April and June 2012. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the number and total value of alignment loans issued in each month since the start of the 2007-08 financial year to the latest month for which these datasets are available.

I would be grateful if you could let me have the information in the form of an Excel spreadsheet over email.

DWP response

Table 1 gives the numbers of awards and expenditure on Crisis Loans for Alignment for Great Britain in each month from April 2007 to the end of the scheme on 31 March 2013. Data is also included for April 2013 for loans that were received prior to the end of the scheme.

Parts of the Social Fund were complex, over-centralised and poorly targeted. Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans were abolished from 1 April 2013 paving the way for local authorities to develop their own schemes to ensure that money goes to those most in need.

Table 1: Number of Awards and Expenditure on Crisis Loans for Alignment, by month, since April 2007		
Month	Expenditure (£)	Number of Awards
Apr-2007	2,826,100	42,040
May-2007	3,519,800	52,190
Jun-2007	3,465,800	52,050
Jul-2007	3,857,800	59,910
Aug-2007	4,301,400	63,000
Sep-2007	3,844,400	57,490
Oct-2007	4,266,200	65,660
Nov-2007	3,951,100	62,930
Dec-2007	3,270,400	46,930

Table 1: Number of Awards and Expenditure on Crisis Loans for Alignment, by month, since April 2007

Month	Expenditure (£)	Number of Awards
Jan-2008	4,252,100	69,660
Feb-2008	3,927,700	63,870
Mar-2008	3,408,100	54,270
Apr-2008	4,212,200	66,400
May-2008	3,967,800	61,570
Jun-2008	4,165,500	65,760
Jul-2008	4,628,200	72,260
Aug-2008	4,413,300	67,240
Sep-2008	4,674,900	72,450
Oct-2008	4,991,000	77,900
Nov-2008	4,649,500	71,440
Dec-2008	5,119,000	70,920
Jan-2009	5,557,400	82,520
Feb-2009	5,018,300	76,040
Mar-2009	5,321,000	81,360
Apr-2009	5,183,200	76,330
May-2009	5,120,100	75,330
Jun-2009	5,841,700	85,690
Jul-2009	6,557,200	95,200
Aug-2009	6,035,600	86,170
Sep-2009	6,725,000	98,470
Oct-2009	6,605,400	98,840
Nov-2009	6,300,700	94,870
Dec-2009	5,872,700	83,990
Jan-2010	6,677,700	98,620
Feb-2010	6,374,600	97,450
Mar-2010	7,121,800	108,670
Apr-2010	6,330,000	95,890
May-2010	5,735,400	87,300
Jun-2010	6,462,500	98,450
Jul-2010	6,652,500	100,760
Aug-2010	6,523,600	97,130
Sep-2010	6,974,800	104,320
Oct-2010	6,131,800	91,480
Nov-2010	6,179,000	92,820
Dec-2010	5,908,300	82,350
Jan-2011	7,530,100	110,320
Feb-2011	6,809,400	101,180
Mar-2011	6,679,000	100,480

Table 1: Number of Awards and Expenditure on Crisis Loans for Alignment, by month, since April 2007		
Month	Expenditure (£)	Number of Awards
Apr-2011	4,652,400	75,670
May-2011	5,582,800	90,620
Jun-2011	5,447,700	88,410
Jul-2011	5,242,900	84,710
Aug-2011	5,263,100	83,910
Sep-2011	5,239,500	84,330
Oct-2011	4,731,200	76,480
Nov-2011	4,690,600	75,780
Dec-2011	4,380,500	66,680
Jan-2012	5,529,500	86,880
Feb-2012	5,086,300	80,340
Mar-2012	4,917,800	77,610
Apr-2012	3,932,000	66,520
May-2012	4,395,300	76,190
Jun-2012	4,237,500	72,020
Jul-2012	4,633,700	80,400
Aug-2012	4,601,500	76,650
Sep-2012	4,333,900	72,980
Oct-2012	4,837,800	83,170
Nov-2012	3,945,100	69,200
Dec-2012	3,188,400	52,910
Jan-2013	4,028,400	70,040
Feb-2013	3,420,100	60,660
Mar-2013	3,144,400	53,810
Apr-2013	192,100	3,140

Source: DWP Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Notes

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all Parliamentary Questions using Official / National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official / National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications that were withdrawn or applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

2. In 2012-13, Crisis Loans requested under the category “capital not realisable” were reclassified from Crisis Loans for Living Expenses to Crisis Loans for Alignment. They are not included in this table but totalled an estimated £9.3m in 2012-13. “Capital not realisable” loans are made when the applicant requires help until they can access capital assets or arrange credit facilities.
3. Crisis Loan awards and expenditure figures for 2012-13 include loans that were received prior to the end of the scheme on 31 March 2013 but processed after this date.
4. The figures for awards are not the same as the number of people who received awards. Some people may have made more than one application.
5. The number of discretionary awards made after review is not included in the table. However, expenditure does include awards made after review, reconsideration or appeal.
6. Award volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. Expenditure is rounded to the nearest £100.
7. Figures may not sum due to rounding.