

Freedom of Information request 350/2013

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Information request and DWP response

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 16 January. You asked:

I would be grateful if the following information could be provided, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- **Details of the maternity pay benefits for employees of education establishments**
- **Details of the maternity pay benefits for employees of the Ministry of Defence -**
- **Details of the maternity pay benefits for employees of Central Government**

The Department for Work and Pensions does not hold information on specific maternity pay benefits for the areas you have requested. You will need to approach each Department individually for this. However, the following information may be helpful.

Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) is paid for up to 39 weeks. The first six weeks are earnings-related and a woman will get a weekly rate equal to 90 per cent of her average weekly earnings with no upper limit. For the remaining 33 weeks, a woman will get SMP at the standard rate of £135.45 a week (2011/12) or the earnings-related rate if this is less than the standard rate.

Maternity Allowance (MA) is intended for those who cannot get SMP, the low paid and the self-employed. To qualify, a woman must have been employed and/or self-employed in at least 26 of the 66 weeks before the week she expects her baby (the test period) and earn on average at least £30 a week. MA is paid for up to 39 weeks at £135.45 a week or, if less, a weekly rate equal to 90 per cent of her average weekly earnings.

Many employers have Occupational Maternity Pay schemes in place and employees have to keep to the rules in order to get all the pay they are entitled to. Under these schemes, the employer cannot pay the pregnant worker less than their SMP entitlement. They may pay you more if you are entitled to a higher rate of maternity pay under your employment contract.

Your employer can usually pay you SMP as part of your occupational maternity pay, or vice versa. But if the occupational scheme is funded entirely by the employees your employer cannot treat your maternity pay as part of SMP.

- **Details of Local Health Authorities who have funded treatment for IVF to women over 40 years old**

We do not hold this information. This may be available from the Department of Health.

- **Details of the entitlement to Housing and other Benefits awarded to single women with a child**

The following link provides details of benefits that may be available to someone in the situation you describe. Each one has entitlement conditions in place that applicants must satisfy.

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/jobseekers-allowance>

The following link provides an estimate of what benefits (eg Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance) and tax credits someone could get, and information about claiming specific benefits.

<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-adviser>