

Freedom of Information request 1772/2013

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Information request

1. *Can you please state how much the " £71.00 that the law says you need to live on",as a percentage of the average national wage now?*
2. *Can you state what the "law said you needed to live on", as a percentage of the average wage in 2005?*
3. *If the percentage difference has been seen to shrink between these dates, can you explain why?*
4. *Please show the comparison of inflation as a percentage of average national wage of 2005 and present?*
5. *Please try to justify the real loss of benefit, in real terms, between 2005 and present?*
6. *Explain how the theory of assessing the the amount the law said you needed to live on in 2005 has changed to the present level?*
7. *What is the present level that the law says you need to live on, as a percentage of the amount you were awarded in 2005?*

DWP response

In relation to the questions you have raised, I can confirm that the Department holds no recorded information to answer your questions.

It may help if I explain that the Freedom of Information Act requires public authorities to provide copies of information they already hold in a recorded form, subject to certain exemptions. However, it does not require the Department to provide opinions, explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

You may be interested in the most recent published data on the Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, National Insurance Contributions, and Indices of Prices and Earnings:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/abstract/abstract2011.pdf>

The Abstract of Statistics is an annual publication that aims to provide a reference source for users interested in the main aspects of Benefits and Indices of Prices and earnings

The 'Data Sources' section of these tables shows that the earnings related data is sourced from the Office for National Statistics and there may be more up-to-date information available via their website official website of labour market statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk

Please note that the responsibility for these statistics lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Information on how to submit a freedom of information request to ONS can be found via this link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/FOI/how-to-make-a-foi-request/index.html>