

Freedom of Information request 1781/2013

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Information request

My constituent would like confirmation of how much money JCP expect to save by stopping Crisis Loans, and whether the previous amount of money allocated to provide Crisis Loans will now be transferred to a different provision within the Social Fund. They have also asked me to clarify whether the cancellation of Crisis Loans has had any impact on the staffing levels at your dedicated call centres and benefit processing units.

DWP response

There will not be any savings as all of the funding allocated by HMT to DWP for the discretionary Social Fund, including Crisis Loans, has been passed to Upper tier English local authorities and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales. Separate start up and administration funding has also been provided.

The vast majority of staff impacted by the Social Fund Reform were allocated alternative work in their existing location. A Voluntary Exit Scheme was offered to a small number where redeployment was not possible with a few staff still considering alternative work. The abolition of Crisis Loans has had no impact on staffing levels at dedicated call centres and processing units as we have successfully redeployed staff to other duties.