

# Freedom of Information request 3638/2012

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## Information request

I have been reading in the press that there are 130,000 people receiving a pension of £7pw and roughly the same number receive over £200 pw. I would like you to answer the following questions.

1. Of the people receiving £7 pw how many of the people were living in a country where they did not receive cost of living increases.
2. Of the people receiving £7pw how many lived in a country where they did receive cost of living increases.
3. Of the people receiving £7pw how many lived in a country where they did receive cost of living increases but had at some time lived in a country where cost of living increases were not payable.
4. Of the people receiving £7pw how many had retired since 5 April 2010.
5. For a person to receive only £7pw, how long ago did they retire, other than those who may have arrived since 5 April 2010.

## DWP response

Answers to questions 1, 2, 4 and 5 are below. We have provided answers for people receiving less than £7 per week rather than exactly £7 per week, since the 130,000 people referred to are estimated to receive less than £7 per week. For further information about this estimate, please see the report "**Estimates of the range of State Pension outcomes September 2011**", August 2012. The report is available electronically via the DWP website at [http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc\\_analysis/2012/range\\_state\\_pension\\_outcomes\\_20121808.pdf](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/range_state_pension_outcomes_20121808.pdf)

Answers to questions 1, 2, 4 and 5:

Of the people receiving less than £7 per week of State Pension in September 2011, around 34,800 are estimated to be living overseas in a 'frozen rate' country.

Of the people receiving less than £7 per week of State Pension in September 2011, around 96,200 are estimated to be living in Great Britain or overseas in a 'non-frozen rate' country.

Of the people receiving less than £7 per week of State Pension in September 2011, around 2,500 are estimated to have reached State Pension age since 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

The people receiving less than £7 per week of State Pension in September 2011 reached State Pension age over a wide range of years, ranging from the mid-1960s up to the point that the data was taken in September 2011. It is not possible to say when these people arrived in the country in which they currently reside – see the response to question 3 below.

The amount of State Pension you get depends on a number of factors, for example, your National Insurance contributions and type of pension. Further information on the State Pension can be found at <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/StatePension/index.htm>.

Source: DWP calculations based on DWP 5% sample administrative data

Notes:

1. Figures relate to basic State Pension and Additional State Pension.
2. Figures refer to individuals resident in Great Britain or Overseas, in receipt of some State Pension.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
4. The figures exclude additional amounts paid to individuals who deferred claiming their State Pension.
5. The figures include payments based on a persons own NI contributions and any inherited amounts of entitlement based on a deceased partner's NI contributions.

In response to question 3 the information you have requested is not readily available. To obtain this information would require the creation of new information. We estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.