

Freedom of Information request 4648/2012

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Information request and DWP response

How much has DWP reclaimed from over payments to deceased ex-patriot pensioners in the last year/five years?

| Financial Year | International Benefit Centre | |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------|
| 2008/2009 | £ | 4.04m |
| 2009/2010 | £ | 2.21m |
| 2010/2011 | £ | 2.47m |
| 2011/2012 | £ | 3.03m |

Please note the debt recovered may have arisen before the pensioner moved overseas.

How much does DWP estimate is lost in payments to deceased overseas pensioners per year?

There are no estimates. This information is not collected.

How often does DWP require life certification from pensioners living overseas?

The current strategy is to issue a life certificate on a regular basis to customers. The life certificate is one of a number of methods used by the Department to ensure that the correct payment is made to the correct person.

I hope you understand that the very nature of the Life Certification process, to ensure correct payments are made, means that I am unable to go into detail about the process we use, as this could potentially jeopardise the effectiveness of this measure. I can confirm that if a life certificate isn't promptly returned, this can lead to the suspension or closure of a claim to UK State pension.

The Department for Work and Pensions has a responsibility to protect the public purse and that the completion of Life Certificates is one of a series of

measures used by DWP to ensure the accuracy of benefit payments to overseas customers.