

Freedom of Information request 1430/2011

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Information request

Does the Department have a purchasing card programme and can it provide the following information:

1. Which bank provides your purchasing card scheme?
2. What was the total amount of spend placed through the scheme last financial year (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)?
3. When does your contract for the supply of purchasing cards expire?
4. Does the contract have a break clause?
5. Does the Department have more than one purchasing card programme?
6. If the Department has more than one programme could it provide answers for all the programmes that are currently running in the organisation?

DWP response

I can confirm that the Department does have a purchasing card programme and have responded to your specific questions below:

1) Which bank provides your purchasing card scheme?

The contract has been held by JP Morgan since 1 February 2010.

2) What was the total amount of spend placed through the scheme last financial year (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)?

The total DWP spend for the last financial year was £3.9m.

3) When does your contract for the supply of purchasing cards expire?

The current contract expires on 31 January 2012.

4) Does the contract have a break clause?

Yes, the contract has a break clause.

5) Does the Department have more than one purchasing card programme?

No

6) If the Department has more than one programme could it provide answers for all the programmes that are currently running in the organisation?

N/A

DWP uses this purchasing card programme as its preferred method of payment for the majority of low value transactions, for ad hoc goods and services below £600 and for contracted items below £600.

The card is not used for travel or expenses or for personal use.

Card use has dropped significantly over the past twelve months and a significant number of cards have been decommissioned.

DWP has a lower single transaction limit than most Government Departments and a 2010 NAO report stated that DWP's controls are amongst the best in class.