

# **Freedom of Information request 221/2014**

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## **Information request**

I would like to make a request under the freedom of information act 2000.

I would like to know how many people who applied for a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) after 8 April 2013 died before they received any payment.

Please provide as much data about each case as possible, including when they applied for payment and when their application was cancelled due to their death.

If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in the act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used. If you are only able to release some of the information I would ask that you release this data rather than withhold the entire set.

If you would like more clarification on this issue do not hesitate to contact me.

## **DWP response**

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) started from April 2013 and although limited data has started to feed through, we need to wait until the Department has quality assured, meaningful figures for publication. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish official statistics on PIP from Spring 2014.

In order to manage the gap between PIP go-live and the first release of Official Statistics in Spring 2014, we are assessing whether we can release some management information. If the quality assurance of this management information shows that it is sufficiently robust and reliable then we aim to publish it via an ad-hoc statistical release.

As we are considering publication of statistics in early 2014, we believe that the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information under the terms of Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act.

It is clearly in the public interest to ensure that publication of PIP statistics is a properly planned and managed process to ensure that the statistics are accurate, robust and comprehensive. It is also in the public interest to ensure that this information is available to all members of the public at the same time.

Furthermore, 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