

# Freedom of Information request 2015-148

Date received 13 January 2015

Date of response 10 February 2015

## Information request

I am collecting data for research purposes. Specifically, I am interested in the list of scheduled releases of employment numbers in the U.K. prior to April 1998 and as back in time as possible. The key requirement is that each release date must have been notified to investors before the actual publication date.

I found out from ONS that the Employment Department published labour market statistics back in time. Unfortunately, ONS does not hold any records of publication dates prior to April 1998. Is it possible to track such dates? If so, how

## DWP response

In response to your question we can confirm that the information held by the Department shows that labour market statistics were contained in a publication called Labour Market Trends and we can provide the following publication dates (all Wednesdays) prior to April 1998.

| 1995        | 1996         | 1997         | 1998        |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 15 November | 17 January   | 15 January   | 14 January  |
| 13 December | 14 February  | 12 February  | 11 February |
|             | 13 March     | 19 March     | 18 March    |
|             | 17 April     | 23 April     |             |
|             | 15 May       | 14 May       |             |
|             | 12 June      | 11 June      |             |
|             | 17 July      | 16 July      |             |
|             | 14 August    | 13 August    |             |
|             | 11 September | 17 September |             |
|             | 16 October   | 15 October   |             |
|             | 13 November  | 12 November  |             |
|             | 18 December  | 17 December  |             |

The department does hold some information regarding publication dates prior to 15 November 1995 as the DWP Archive in London has a set of un-indexed departmental press releases dating back to the 1960s which often appear to

highlight employment figures. However as the publications have not been indexed, searching them would take considerable effort and we estimate the cost of complying with this part of 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 this part of your request further.