

## Freedom of Information request 2013-5237

Date received: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Date of response: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013

### Information request

I wish to enquire as to the number of OAPS resident in Ireland who claimed the Winter Fuel Payment for Winter 2012.

Of these applicants, I wish to enquire as to:

The number of applicants who were awarded:

- a. The maximum possible amount
- b. The minimum possible amount

The number of applicants who have neither lived nor worked in the UK since:

- a. 1970
- b. 1985
- c. 2000
- d. 2010

The number of applicants who also claimed in respect of retrospective winters, and the maximum amount that was awarded to one claimant.

The top ten Irish counties in which these citizens currently reside.

### DWP response

In response to the first part of your query, the available information we have on the number of people resident in the Republic of Ireland who claimed the Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) for Winter 2012 was 20,400, which includes all claims submitted including those recommended for a nil payment 1,000.

Of these, 2,100 people were recommended to be paid the maximum amount (£300, comprising a full WFP and an 80+ Age Award) and 5,200 people were recommended to be paid the minimum amount (£100, comprising a half WFP).

These figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and are sourced from the Winter Fuel Management System (WFMS).

Please note that in all cases WFMS makes payment recommendations which may be ignored by the paying systems, and also that a small number of cases

may hold an incorrect country code and will thus be erroneously included in or excluded from these figures.

These figures are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

In response to your questions regarding the number of applicants who have neither lived nor worked in the UK, retrospective claims, and the top ten Irish counties in which these citizens currently reside, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, this information is not held centrally and we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 due to the complexity involved in linking data together.

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.