

Freedom of Information request 2015-586

Date received 13 February 2015

Date of response 10 March 2015

Information request

“Do you have a table of how many EU migrants claim benefits in the country? The same with work and claiming pensions? All in a table split into separate countries of the worker/claimant?

Also do you have the same but for British people in EU member state countries, Work, Benefits and Pensions split into country they're in? so I know who claims what in each country and who works.”

DWP response

In response to part of your query regarding British people claiming benefits in other countries, the department does not hold this information.

In response to the remainder of your query, we can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, 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.

There is some relevant information available within cost as statistics on adult overseas nationals registering for a National Insurance number for the purposes of work, benefits or tax credits are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

In particular, a breakdown of working age benefit claimants by nationality by is available by navigating to the publication:

[‘National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK to June 2014’](#) and using **table 1b** of [‘Summary tables: nationality at point of NI registration of DWP working age benefit recipients – Feb 2014’](#).

Please note that the information provided covers working age benefits only, information on pensioner benefits is not available.

Also, you may find it useful to know that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish some statistics on Migrant Workers which can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/index.html>

The responsibility for these statistics lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Information on how to submit a freedom of information request to ONS can be found via the link below.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/FOI/how-to-make-a-foi-request/index.html>