

# Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme Official Statistics

## 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2018

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**Official**

The Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS) was launched throughout the UK on 6 April 2014. It provides payments to eligible sufferers of diffuse mesothelioma (or their eligible dependents) who were negligently exposed to asbestos during a period of employment, but who are unable to take legal action to seek financial redress through the civil courts. The DMPS is paid for via a levy on the insurance industry.

This is the sixth official statistics publication in this series. The fifth release contained statistics reporting on the DMPS, including applications received, success rates, and payments, from 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 inclusive. This release updates it with data from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

## Headline Figures

Applications received	Application success rate (excluding Pending applications)	Total amount paid
<p>Apr 2017 – Mar 2018</p> <p><b>360</b></p>	<p>Apr 2017 – Mar 2018</p> <p><b>74%</b></p>	<p>Apr 2017 – Mar 2018</p> <p><b>£36m</b></p>
<p>Total (Apr 2014 – Mar 2018)</p> <p><b>1,495</b></p>	<p>Total (Apr 2014 – Mar 2018)</p> <p><b>71%</b></p>	<p>Total (Apr 2014 – Mar 2018)</p> <p><b>£133.8m</b></p>

## At a glance

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Statistics produced by the DMPS Scheme Administrator (at the request of the DWP)

### DWP Lead Analyst:

Max Levene

[max.levene@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:max.levene@dpw.gsi.gov.uk)

DWP Press Office: 0203 267 5144

Thoughts? We welcome feedback

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## What you need to know

The DMPS was established under powers set out in the Mesothelioma Act 2014. It makes payments to people diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012 who contracted the disease as a result of negligent exposure to asbestos at work in the United Kingdom, and who are unable to claim damages because the employer no longer exists and the employer's liability insurer cannot be traced. Payments can also be made to eligible dependants of those sufferers who died as a result of the disease before they could make an application to the Scheme.

The Scheme is funded by a levy on the insurance industry. For the purpose of meeting the full costs of the Scheme, regulations require active employers' liability insurers to pay an annual levy based on their relative market share. This levy encompasses the capital payments made to applicants, administration costs, and costs associated with collecting the levy. In the first year of the Scheme's operation (April 2014 to March 2015) the levy was £32m, in 2015/16 it was set at £23.2m, in 2016/17 it was set at £40.4m, and in 2017/18 it was set at £33.5m.

Official statistics relating to the Scheme are currently released annually and are sourced from data originally collected by the Scheme Administrator appointed to act on behalf of the DWP. To reflect any updates, the full historical statistical series will be refreshed with each release, and so previous figures may be updated (for example, to account for previously pending applications that have since been finalized).

## Summary of additional available data

All of the information underpinning the charts and figures featured in this summary is included in accompanying excel tables.

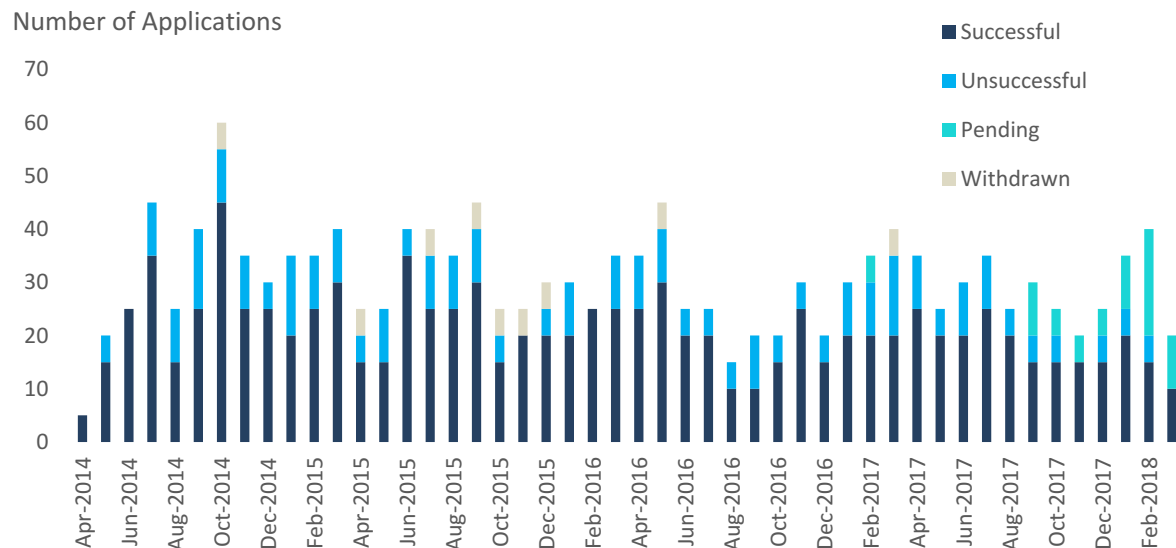
## Notes

- The data contained herein covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2018. It is acknowledged that the scheme did not open to receive applications until 6 April 2014.
- To avoid disclosing information about individual applicants, all volumes have been rounded to the nearest 5, percentages to the nearest 1 percent, total payments to the nearest £0.1 million, and average payments to the nearest £1000. Consequently, there may be slight discrepancies in total figures due to rounding
- With a view to improving future releases, we welcome feedback on the material provided.

# Applications

## 59 per cent of Applications have been successful in 2017/18 (if pending applications are not excluded)

Applications received by the Scheme may be recorded as successful, unsuccessful, withdrawn or have a decision pending.



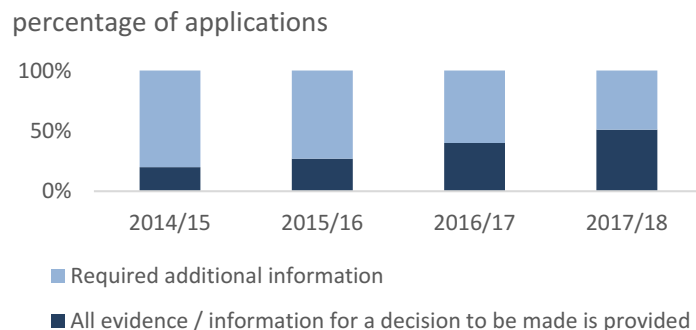
In financial year 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, 360 applications were received. This is approximately 4 per cent more than in 2016/17, but 4 per cent fewer than in 2015/16 and 11 per cent fewer than in 2014/15.

In financial year 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, 59 per cent of all applications have been successful, 17 per cent unsuccessful, 4 per cent withdrawn, and 20 per cent had pending decisions (as at April 2018).

The last three months (January, February and March 2018) have been significantly impacted by pending applications in part due to a change of administrator with a handover period. Over the next few months, pending applications will turn into successful or unsuccessful claims, which will be recorded under the month the application was received. Excluding those three months, about two thirds (64 per cent) of all applications received from April 2017 to December 2018 have been successful compared to 68 per cent across all months since April 2014.

Excluding pending applications altogether, 74 per cent of applications received in the last 12 months were successful. This figure is 71 per cent across all months since the scheme began.

## For the first year ever, less than half of the applications required additional information, continuing the downward trend



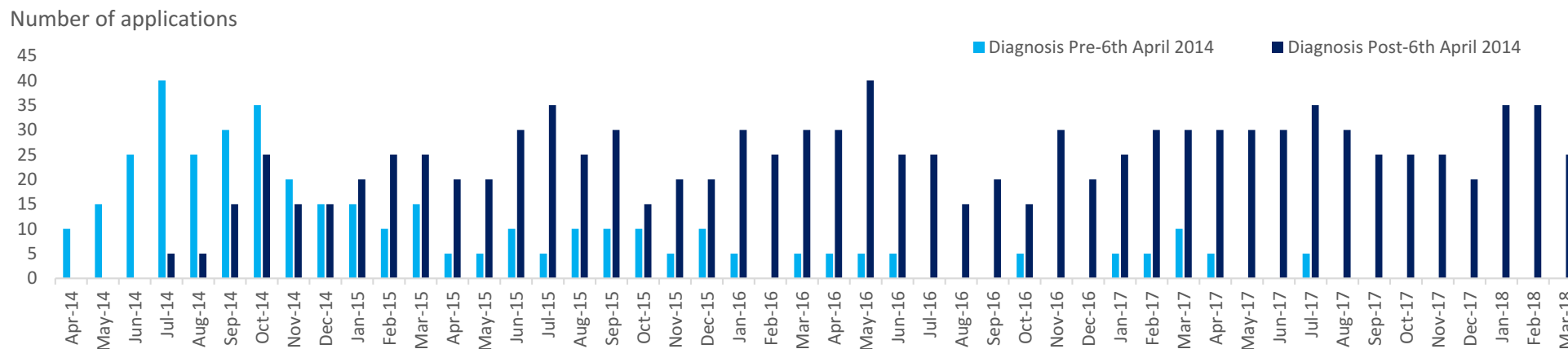
In the last 12 months, 49 per cent of applications required more information than was initially provided in order for a decision to be made, compared to 60 per cent in 2016/17 and 73 per cent in 2015/16. Overall, since April 2014, 66 per cent of all applications have required further information from the applicant.

Where an applicant believes they are entitled to claim, early completion of the application is encouraged. The Scheme Administrator acknowledges receipt and holds the claim until all the necessary evidence is provided by the applicant. Some evidence can be more difficult to obtain, for example, if the applicant is required to trace ex-employers/employers' liability insurers where a significant time lapse may have occurred.

# Applicants

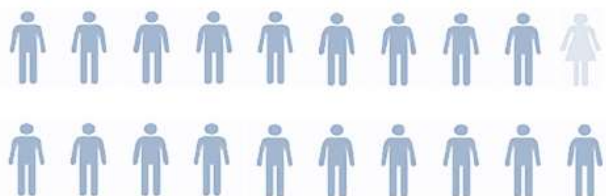
## The number of applicants diagnosed pre-6th April 2014 has almost completely tailed off

The Scheme launched on 6 April 2014, accepting applications from individuals diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012.



Initially the bulk of applications received related to a diagnosis pre-6 April 2014. This may have included a ‘stock’ of eligible people waiting for the Scheme to open. Since January 2015 more applications have been received from individuals diagnosed after the Scheme was launched on 6 April 2014 than from those diagnosed pre-6 April 2014. From July 2016 until March 2018 almost all applications received were from individuals diagnosed after 6th April 2014. However, the final few months of 2016/17 and start of 2017/18 saw a small number of applications from those diagnosed before 6 April 2014. This is likely to be because the deadline for these applications was 5 April 2017 and there was a campaign to publicise the deadline.

## The majority of applicants have been male



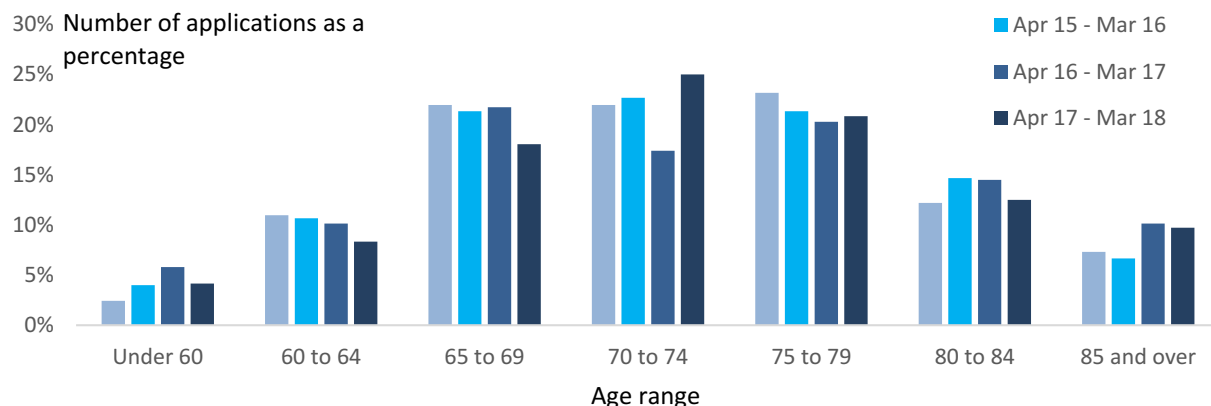
The vast majority (90 per cent) of applicants in the last 12 months have been male. Across all months, this figure increases to 92 per cent. The higher male figures reflect the professions where exposure to asbestos and therefore the risk of suffering from diffuse mesothelioma have been high - for example carpenters, plumbers, electricians, dockworkers, ship builders and metal workers in the 1960s and 70s.

Note: the diagram above shows the proportion based on the year 2017/18

# Applicant Age

## Applicants' ages at diagnosis are predominantly in the over 65 age groups

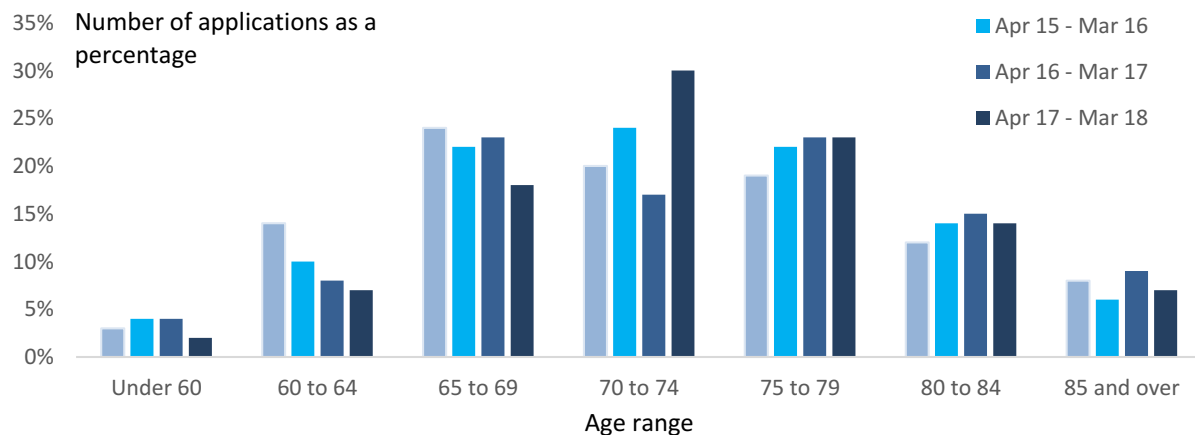
### Applicant's age at Diagnosis



There are no age restrictions on applicants but the amount received depends on the age of the applicant at the point of diagnosis.

The last 12 months to 31 March 2018 saw an increase in the proportion of applications from those in the 70-74 range (an increase of 8 percentage points on the previous year). We also observe a slight increase in applications from those in the 75-79 range. For all other age ranges there has been a minor decrease in the proportion of applications made.

### Successful applicant's age at Diagnosis

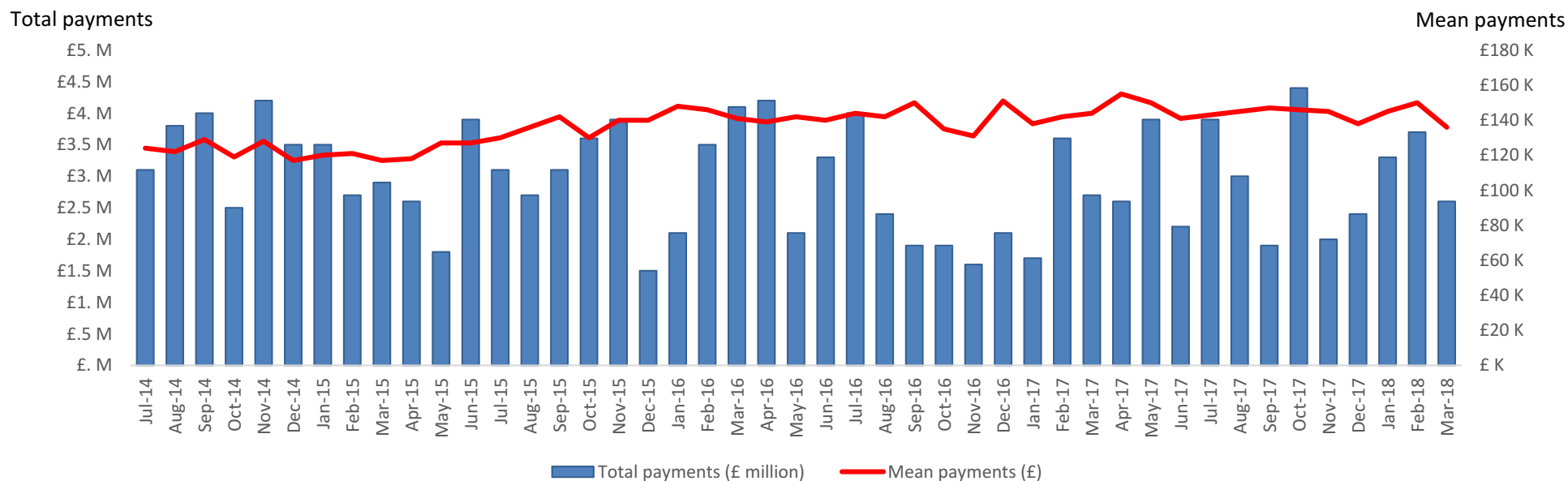


In 2017/18, almost three quarters of successful applicants (71 per cent) were aged between 65 and 79. By comparison, in 2016/17, 64 per cent of successful applicants were in this age group.

# Payments

## £133.8 million awarded in compensation since April 2014

Between April 2014 and February 2015 the Scheme regulations specified that successful applicants be paid equivalent to 80% of the average payment they would have received had they been successful through the civil courts system. In February 2015, the scheme's tariff payment was increased to 100% of average equivalent civil compensation payments for those that were diagnosed either on or after 10th February 2015. Due to the time taken from application to decision, generally, the full effects of the change are not seen in average award figures until May 2015 onwards.

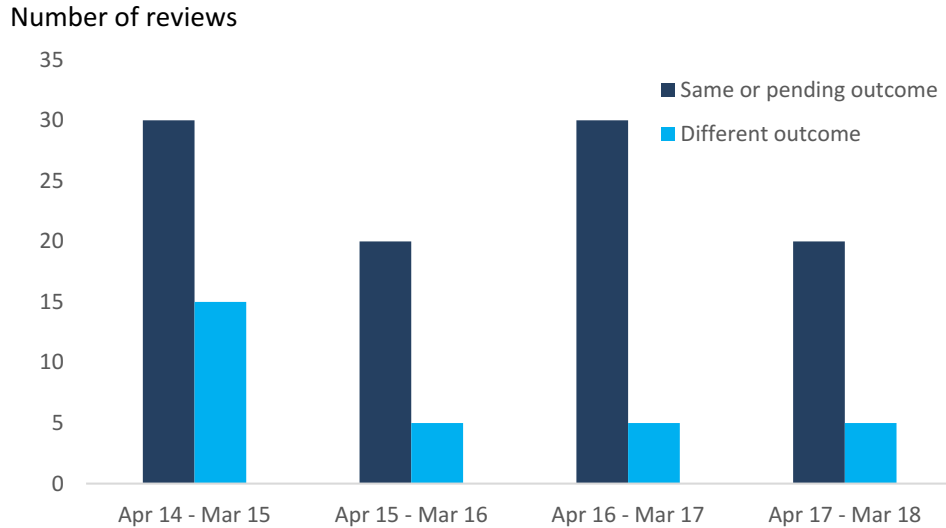


The average (mean) payment to successful applicants in the 12 months to March 2018 was around £145,000, up from £141,000 in 2016/17. Since April 2014, a total of £133.8 million has been paid out. This consists of £110.7 million of direct payments to applicants and £23 million which was repaid to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Where a person has already received government payments in respect of diffuse mesothelioma, this money is recovered from Scheme payments in accordance with the well-established principle that people should not receive money twice in respect of the same injury or disease. The liability to repay social security benefits rests with the person who makes the compensation payment (in this case the Scheme Administrator) and not the person suffering from the disease.

# Reviews and Complaints

## A fifth of reviews have resulted in a different outcome for the applicant since 2014



If an applicant is unhappy with the outcome of their claim they may request that the scheme administrator review the decision of their application, giving reasons why they feel the decision was incorrect. If an applicant remains dissatisfied once the review has been completed, they may request that an independent appeal tribunal (known as the first tier tribunal) consider their case.

There were 65 unsuccessful applications between April 2017 and March 2018, 25 of which have been reviewed – this is equivalent to 41% which is slightly higher than 39% in the previous 12 months. Since April 2014 there have been 125 reviews from the 340 unsuccessful applicants. A fifth (25) of these 125 reviewed decisions resulted in a different outcome. This was often because additional information was supplied by the applicant that had not been available to the Scheme Administrator at the time of the first decision.

10 applicants were unhappy with their review decision in 2017/18 and chose to refer their case to the First-tier Tribunal, compared to 15 in 2014/15, 5 in 2015/16 and 20 in 2016/17.

# About these statistics

## Useful links

More information about the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme can be found at: <https://mesoscheme.org.uk> or [www.gov.uk/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment/overview](http://www.gov.uk/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment/overview)

Previous publications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diffuse-mesothelioma-payment-scheme-statistics>

## Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- Stat-Xplore provides a guided way to explore DWP benefit statistics, currently holding data relating to 12 different benefits/programmes:  
<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months and a list of the most recent releases:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>
- In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, all DWP National Statistics are announced at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>

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