



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
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Vera Zakharov  
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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2022/91979

14 December 2022

Dear Vera Zakharov,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 16 November. You wrote:

“Thank you for your reply. My honest mistake in leaving out such a crucial piece of information. Apologies for any extra work this amended request may create. Please see below my clarified request:

Under Freedom of Information, I would like to request the number of Total Eligible Beneficiaries to Healthy Start in England, Northern Ireland and Wales for the months of April 2022, May 2022, June 2022, July 2022, August 2022 and September 2022.”

## **DWP Response**

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) published monthly Healthy Start uptake data, which included the total number of entitled beneficiaries and the total number of eligible beneficiaries to March 2022 for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, broken down by local authority, and this can be found at the bottom of this page:

[Healthcare professionals – Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)

According to the metadata, eligible beneficiaries are the total number of beneficiaries eligible to receive the healthy start benefit (for the month prior to the entitled reporting month) (source: HMRC/DWP scan data).

We can confirm that we hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 12 of the Fol Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further. The reason being extracting the information you have requested would exceed the cost limit.

Under Section 16 of the Fol Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit as each Fol request is judged on its own merits.

In this case we are not able to provide adequate advice on how you can narrow your request to a point where you might reasonably be expected to receive a response. We are sorry that we are not able to provide more specific advice under Section 16 of the FoI Act.

However, you may be interested in the responses to the following Parliamentary Questions which were answered recently by DHSC ([PQ59030](#) and [PQ66993](#)) and DWP [HL2583](#).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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### **Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dw.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dw.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.