



Reference: FOI0981

Request:

Please can I request under the Freedom of Information Act:

a) Any estimate of the total monetary cost to your authority of the introduction of Universal Credit since its inception in 2013 (ideally broken down by municipal year and including 2018/19 to date);

There are currently 9,520 cases which would require examining to extract this data.

Therefore, this part of the request is refused under s12 (1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, since the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In assessing the cost of complying, the costs attributable to officer time involved in complying have been taken into account. Such costs are limited to £450.00 under the Regulations, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

b) The total monetary value of any crisis loans funded by yourselves and given to Universal Credit claimants since January 1 2013;

Nil as we do not award crisis loans

c) The total funding given by yourselves to third-sector organisations for the purpose of supporting Universal Credit claimants since January 1 2013;

Funding provided to Citizens Advice Bureau for personal budgeting support since November 2015 (start of UC in North Tyneside). £54,491. This was not a direct cost to the Council as reimbursed via Department for Work and Pensions.

d) The cost to yourselves of offering support or advice to Universal Credit claimants who are in financial difficulty or struggling with the process of claiming Universal Credit since January 1 2013;

Funding provide to our Employment & Skills Team to provide digital skills support is £31,346 from November 2015. This was also reimbursed by DWP. For welfare provision support we are currently unable to identify statistics for UC claimants.