

FOI DOF/2024-0297

Request

We would like to request some information from Land and Property Services in relation to

Rates Rebates:

1. How does LPS identify income to determine the entitlement of an applicant?
2. Does the application form ask the claimant to outline holiday pay and pay in lieu of notice?
3. Is the claimant advised of the relevance of providing this information? If so, how?
4. How does LPS publicise this Scheme to ensure that eligible applicants apply?

Broken down on an annual basis since April 2021 please advise:

- 5 (a) How many applications were made for a Rate Rebate?
- 5 (b) How many claimants reported Holiday Pay and or Pay in Lieu of Notice as part of their income when applying for Rate Rebate?

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested.

1. Regulation 10 of the Rate Relief Regulations 2017 provides for the calculation of Entitlement to Rate Rebate. The relevant legislation can be found at the following link: [The Rate Relief Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2017](#)
2. The online Rate Rebate application does not request claimants to outline holiday pay and pay in lieu of notice.
3. LPS publishes information for rate rebate claimants on NI Direct advising one off payments such as holiday pay or pay in lieu of notice can be excluded in the calculation of rate rebate entitlement as well as providing details on the information needed by LPS.
4. LPS has widely publicised the Rate Rebate Scheme to raise awareness for potential applicants. This includes (but not restricted to);
 - Notifications within the claimant's application for Universal Credit
 - Within the scripting of Universal Credit claimant journal
 - Online at NI Direct
 - Inserts that accompany Rate bills.
 - Information booklets available within Department for Communities Jobs & Benefits Offices (JBOs)

- LPS Outreach Team attendance at
 - i. JBO local events
 - ii. Balmoral Show
 - iii. Belfast Mela.
 - Regular engagement with the NI Housing Executive and Housing Associations
 - Promotion through the Landlords Association of Northern Ireland (LANI)
 - Through social media channels.
5. (a) Since April 2021, 173,949 applications have been received. Broken down as follows:

Claims Received	Number of Claims
2021	35,031
2022	49,535
2023	53,146
2024	36,237
Total	173,949

- (b) LPS does not record the information requested.