



Department for Culture, Media and Sport
FoI Response



6 February 2009

CMS Case Number: 109305

Thank you for your request of 9th January 2009 requesting information on the Free Swimming Programme.

We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information

These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

We are pleased to provide you with information relating to your request.

1) A breakdown of the money being delivered to each LA to provide free swimming for over 60s and under 16s.

DCMS has now written to local authorities informing them of their indicative allocations. This information is available on the DCMS website. You can access this information by following the link provided below.

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/freeswimming-finalallocations.pdf>

2. Estimated additional cost to each LA of providing free swimming.

Information is not collected centrally on the costs of and charges for swimming across the country. However, we are pleased that so many local authorities have taken up the challenge presented by particularly the Pot 2 funding and have been able to work in partnership with local bodies to lever in further funds to make swimming free for young people.

3. The amount of capital funding announced that will be delivered to each LA over the next 3 years.

£10m capital has been made available this year to those local authorities participating in both the over 60s and under 16s elements of the scheme. Details of individual allocations are on the DCMS website. £25m capital per annum in each of 2009/10 and 2010/11 will be available to those authorities whose bids to the Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Fund are successful. Further information is available on the Sport England website:

http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_funding/swimming_capital_modernisation_programme.htm

4. The number of years the swimming initiative will continue for.

Funding is committed until financial year 2010/11. Any future funding and delivery arrangements for free swimming will be subject to the outcome of the next Spending Review.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this letter to:

FOI Central Team,
Public Engagement and Recognition Unit
Department for Culture Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street, London,
SW1Y 5DH

You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning his investigation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Officer
Freedom of Information Team