

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: VTR 3133

Date: 24 August 2015

Dear Anita,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 27 July 2015.

You asked:

1. How many of the 49 internal peer reviews into benefit-related deaths involved an ESA claimant categorised as vulnerable who had not been seen face-to-face by their Work Programme provider before they were referred to Jobcentre Plus to be sanctioned?

If it does not exceed the cost limit, I would also like to know:

2. How many of the 10 claimants who had been sanctioned were receiving ESA at the time they died?

And again if it does not exceed the cost limit, I would like to know:

3. Of the five people who were not claiming benefits at the time they died, why were they the subject of peer reviews ie how were they customers if they were not claiming benefits?

DWP response

DWP holds the information that you seek. However the information is being withheld as providing it will exceed the cost limit of £600 laid down in regulations. We are aggregating this request for the purpose of estimating whether the cost limit applies. This is where more than one request has been made within 60 consecutive working days relating to the same or similar information and the requests have been made by one person, or as in your case, by different persons acting in concert.

Your request is an exact duplicate of a request made by a third party on 6 June 2015 which the department recently refused on cost grounds. This indicates that you are collaborating with another person.

In order to bring your request under the cost limit DWP suggests that you consider re-submitting your request at a future date.

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

Yours sincerely,

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@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, 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
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745