

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: 2018-3511

11 March 2019

Dear Frank Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 17 August 2018. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying.

You asked:

“Please disclose statistics of how many benefit claimants found fit for work(FFW), after their work capability assessment, have died within 6 months of the FFW decision? Under the categories:

- All assessments
- Repeat assessments
- Initial assessments
- IB Reassessments

Covering your published statistics reports for 'Employment and Support Allowance: outcomes of Work Capability Assessments '

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>
with end date of June 2017.**

This request uses the help you provided for FOI 2018-2298

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/483474/response/1169506/attach/html/3/FOI%202018%202298%20Response.pdf.html> concerning a " suitable time period", as the last stats got published on 14 June 2018 for ESA -WCA outcomes to December 2017”

The available information on the number of individuals with a “Fit for Work” Work Capability Assessment (WCA) decision between October 2008 and June 2017 by assessment type, and of those the number who died within six months of that decision is shown in the table below.

No causal effect between the decision made and the number of people who died should be assumed from these figures.

The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Total number of individuals with a “Fit for Work” Work Capability Assessment (WCA) decision between October 2008 and June 2017 by assessment type and of those the number who died within six months of that decision, by decision made, Great Britain

	Total	Assessment Type		
		Initial	Repeat	Initial IBR
Total number of individuals with a FFW WCA decision between October 2008 and July 2017	1,358,000	973,270	231,250	153,470
of which:				
Number who died within 6 months of that decision	5,690	3,630	1,090	980

Source: DWP WPLS and data derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by Healthcare Provider.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. '-' denotes nil or negligible
2. 6 months is measured as 182 days after the WCA decision was made - e.g. for decisions made on 30 June 2017, deaths have been measured up to and including 28 December 2017.
3. WCA decision: The final DWP Decision Maker's or appeal tribunal's decision or the recommendation made by the Healthcare Professional where the Decision Maker's decision is not available.
4. The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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 <https://ico.org.uk/>