

Mr Taylor (xx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref:1921-384

4 March 2011

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 8 February 2011 that was received by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi and forwarded for response by the DWP Commercial Management of Medical Services Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

1. all recorded information that you and/or your contractors have relating to the number of Incapacity benefit claimants or people claiming employment and support allowance (ESA) that have committed suicide, or attempted to commit suicide, following notification of the requirement for them to attend an Atos Medical Examination and/or a work capability assessment (WCA);
2. the number that have committed suicide, or attempted to commit suicide, after being removed from the benefit they were formally receiving following attending an Atos Medical Examination and/or a work capability assessment (WCA).

In answer to your questions I can advise that the Department does not hold any statistics relating to your enquiries.

DWP does publish a wide range of statistics on benefit customers on its website via the Tabulation Tool at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp> and on the Nomis website www.nomisweb.co.uk, which is the Office for National Statistics' official website of labour market statistics. This includes tables of numbers leaving Employment and Support Allowance (off-flows) at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/esa.asp> by geographical area, age group, gender, duration of claim and benefit payment type, but not by destination.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol 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 Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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.gov.uk