



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

Lee Jefferson  
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Operations FoI Team  
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[www.gov.uk/dwp](http://www.gov.uk/dwp)

17 March 2017

Our Ref: VTR FOI 801

Dear Mr Jefferson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 28/02/2017.  
You asked:

*"Based on the information held on file please could you advise whether a person of working age who is bedridden and will be bedridden for the foreseeable future would be considered fit to work."*

**DWP response:**

It may be helpful if first I clarify the role of the Freedom of Information Act:

The Freedom of Information Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not provide that a public authority must create new information to answer questions; nor does it provide that a public authority give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

In cases where a customer does ask a question, rather than request recorded information, we do our utmost to provide the recorded information that best answers the question. Once the public authority has provided the recorded information, it has met its obligations under the Act; interpretation of the information provided is left to the requestor.

With the above in mind the DWP does not hold the information you have requested. This is because DWP engages with individuals based upon their circumstances not exclusively by health condition.

Further information you might find useful can be found in the ESA Decision Makers Guide which can be found on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) specifically here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/decision-makers-guide-vols-8-and-9-employment-and-support-allowance-staff-guide>

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Operations Freedom of Information Team

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**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](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, 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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)