

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2016-2254

13 July 2016

Dear Brian Exton,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 23 June 2016.

You asked:

“Freedom of Information request - Bedroom tax and suicides

I wish to make a Freedom of Information request on the number of sick and disabled people who have taken their lives after failing their medical assessments and made to look for work. I also would like the figures of how many have committed suicide due to benefit sanctions.

I request the number of people who have lost their homes, committed suicide and are in arrears with social housing rent. Could you also let me know how much money the government receive from the bedroom tax and how much it is costing to run the scheme.”

We can confirm that the Department does not hold the information you have requested.

Legal investigations into deaths, including suicides, in England and Wales are performed by the relevant Coroner's office where the death occurred. Please note, coroners are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Legal investigations into deaths in Scotland are administered by the Scottish Courts Service. Details on how to raise a FOI request with them can be found here:

<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/about-the-scottish-court-service/contact-us/freedom-of-information>

Please note that Housing Benefit and the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy is administered by each Local Authority.

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 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 <https://ico.org.uk/>