



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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Sent by e-mail

Digital Group - Parliamentary Business

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Date: 17 April 2018

Ref No: FOI 784

Dear John Slater,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 26 February 2018. Firstly can I apologise for the prolonged delay in responding to this request which was due to delays in finding the correct Service and Information Owners to respond to your request. You asked for:-

I know that the DWP publishes data on the <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk> website but this request is not for actual data or just the type of data that maybe show on this website. RFI1 - What datasets does the DWP hold on its standard IT systems (i.e. excluding bespoke datasets held by local offices) about claimants in respect of:

- ESA
- IB
- PIP
- DLA
- JSA
- Universal Credit RFI2 – For the datasets from RFI1 what type of data is held?

Please note I only want to know the type of data held not the actual data. For the avoidance of doubt a dataset is a collection of data. Most commonly a data set corresponds to the contents of a single database table, or a single statistical data matrix, where every column of the table represents a particular variable, and each row corresponds to a given member of the data set in question.

DWP Response

The Department may hold the information that you have requested. However the Department would withhold any information on the basis of the provisions contained in Sections 31 and 24 of the Freedom of Information Act ("the Act"), which covers the prevention of crime, and national security respectively. Section 31 and 24 are qualified exemptions, and as such, a public interest test needs to be applied. While there is a legitimate public interest in ensuring that the public can have confidence that the Department has datasets in place to enable claims to benefit to be processed, it is not in the public interest for the Department to provide details of these, or the information contained within as this may

enable individuals to attempt to circumvent the Department's security controls. Confirming what information is held, particularly concerning claims to benefit would assist an individual in testing the effectiveness of the Department's security controls. This is not in the public interest, and therefore we are withholding the information in accordance with Section 17 of the Act.

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

Yours,

DWP Digital, Parliamentary Business Focal Point

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you can ask for 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 sent within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745