

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2019/35643

11 October 2019

Dear Frank Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 27 September. You asked:

*Please send me a copy of all Memorandum of Understanding, forms, agreements and policy on exchange of personal data by police forces to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and vice versa covering:*

*[1] Disclosure of Personal Information from DWP to Police Forces - requests by Police forces for personal data held by DWP*

*[2] Disclosure of Personal Information from Police Forces to the DWP - requests by the DWP for personal data held by Police Forces*

**DWP Response:**

I can confirm that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not hold the information you requested.

DWP is responsible for the prevention, detection and, where appropriate, investigation of fraud and error against all benefits administered by and on behalf of DWP.

DWP takes this responsibility very seriously and in discharging its duty to the tax payer to protect public funds, considers all allegations of suspected benefit fraud and takes appropriate action where benefit fraud is identified.

If, during the course of a Police investigation there is a suggestion of a DWP related offence, an established gateway is in place for all Police Forces across England, Scotland and Wales to refer this information to DWP.

Evidence received from any 3<sup>rd</sup> party can be used as a starting point for an investigation. However, DWP takes great care to corroborate any information received to substantiate (or otherwise) any allegation to ensure DWP is directing its resources appropriately.

Information sharing arrangement is a two-way process and DWP's National Disclosure Unit handles all requests to disclose information to Police Forces and other law enforcement agencies. This service is provided under the Data Protection Act 2018, Schedule 2, Part 1, Para 2(1) for the purposes of preventing and detecting crime. We are currently in the process of agreeing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the National Police Chiefs' Council.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol 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@dw.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dw.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  
Web: [ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745