

**Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)**  
**Central Freedom of Information Team**

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

**Our reference:** Fol 4503

**Date:** 2 November 2017

Dear Patricia Faulks

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 20 October 2017.

**You asked:**

I am making my request under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to know if DWP inform a local Neighbourhood if a local Benefit Claimant is under investigation by DWP, and, ask locals in said neighbourhood, to report back to them (DWP) with any information re: said benefit claimant.  
Do DWP ask local Community Police to implement the above actions, also?

**DWP Response:**

The Counter Fraud & Compliance Directorate (CFCD), part of the Department for Work and Pensions (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.

As DWP takes fraud and its responsibility to protect tax payers' money seriously we are obligated to investigate any and all allegations of benefit fraud received, although many will result in no fraudulent activity having taken place or no evidence of fraud being detected.

The DWP is registered under the Data Protection Act (DPA) which imposes certain responsibilities on any organisation which holds personal information.

All information gathered or received during the course of an investigation is confidential and must not be disclosed to any unauthorised third party which would be considered to be breaching the DPA 1998.

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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP, Central FoI 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 [www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745