



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

J Roberts
request-740855-5c750006@whatdotheyknow.com

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

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2021/24877

20 April 2021

Dear J Roberts,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 24 March. You wrote:

"My requests relate to the actions of Dr Alistair Steel (GMC ref. 6157485) with regard to a work capability assessment he carried out in 2017.

An MPT determined that Dr Steel's actions:

'139. ... were reckless because he submitted the Medical Report Form knowing he had not given Claimant A's personal circumstances sufficient scrutiny or taken sufficient care in completing it. Dr Steel knew that he had not fully processed the contents of Claimant A's ESA50 Form properly and that he had not had a thorough discussion with Claimant A to establish all relevant circumstances...'

<https://www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-rod-files/dr-alistair-steel-25-feb-21.pdf>

1. Can you confirm whether you have initiated a review of Dr Steel's work relating to work capability assessments in light of his 'reckless' actions?
2. How many work capability assessments has he carried out?"

DWP Response

We confirm that we do hold some of the information you have requested

Q1. Personal information about a third party is treated as exempt information under the Fol Act. This is because access to personal information about a named Healthcare Professional (HCP) is treated under the provisions of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and can only be released to you where such disclosure would not breach that person's right to privacy.

DWP is not obliged to confirm or deny if a review has been initiated regarding Dr Steel, even if this information was held, the department would not disclose it to you and would cite an exemption from disclosure under section 40(5) of the Fol Act.

Q2. As you have not specified a time period for this request, we are providing information for the 12 months prior to the date of your request. During this time Dr Steel carried out 433 Work Capability Assessments which includes both face to face and telephone assessments.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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 or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 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.

Website: [ICO Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.