

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

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

Our reference: VTR 4428

Date: 19 December 2016

Dear Mr Hillary,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 21 November 2016.

You asked:

“There have been a number of peer reviews into deaths for people on benefit/subject to sanctions, etc.

Please state number of / percentages of the 49 or so revealed DWP peer reviews that involved use of section 19 failure to attend / submit to assessment / interview.”

DWP response:

We have assumed your reference to s.19 is to section 19 of the Jobseeker's Act 1995. Section 19 of the Act deals with instances where the claimant loses employment through misconduct or voluntarily leaves employment without good reason. It applies only to Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants but not to Employment Support and Allowance (ESA) claimants.

We cannot deal with your request without clarification of the information you seek. To help us do so, we would like to know if we have assumed correctly and you are referring to S19 of the Jobseeker's Act.

Under section 16 of the Act we should assist you in helping you focus your request. Please confirm:

- you require information for the number of reviews that relate to failure to attend or submit to an ESA work capability assessment; and
- your request does not relate to JSA claimants.

We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

Please note that if we do not receive appropriate clarification within three months from the date of this letter your request will be treated as closed.

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

Yours sincerely

DWP Operations Freedom of Information 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 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 or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745