

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

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@xxx.xxx.gov.uk

Our reference: 1078

Date: 29 March 2017

Dear Ms Sunley

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 16th March 2017. You asked:-

Could you give me the number of fraudulent claims for personal independent payment for the whole of the year 2016?

DWP Response

The Fraud and Error Service (FES), 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.

The Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System, (FRAIMS) is the internal system used by DWP FES to help manage the business. The following information has been extracted from FRAIMS. All management information and data relating to benefit fraud investigation is held on this IT system which was designed solely for the purpose of helping the Department to manage its business.

In response to the number of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Investigations carried out by FES, we have provided the following table which contains the volume of DWP cases closed (investigations) in 2016 by FES. The data provided in the table below is based on the volume of cases investigated by FES when PIP was the sole benefit in payment. The volumes contain cases closed by Local Service Compliance (LSC), Local Service Investigations (LSI) and Central Criminal Intelligence Investigations Service (CCIIS).

As it was never the Department's intention to put this information into the public domain, it has not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance checks applied to our published official statistics. As the DWP holds the information, we have released it. However, it is possible information held by DWP may change due to operational reasons and we recommend that caution be applied when using it.

Year	Total PIP Investigations closed
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2016	3440
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Please note; these cases are Investigations categorised as closed on our internal FRAIMS system. Please be aware that due to the length of an Investigation, there may be cases that have been opened in a previous year to which they were closed. It is also crucial to remember that just because a fraud Investigation has taken place it does not automatically mean that benefit fraud has also occurred.,

Thank you for your enquiry and I trust the points above provide the information you requested.

If you have any queries about this response 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@dwp.gsi.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
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745