

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: FOI2019/28127  
20 August 2019

Dear Edward Williams,

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

**BACKGROUND:**

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/police-force-admits-agreement-to-share-information-about-protesters-with-dwp/>

*Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has admitted that it has a written agreement to share information about disabled people and other activists who take part in protests with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).*

**REQUEST:**

- 1. Provide the written agreement with GMP to share information about disabled people and other activists who take part in protests.*
- 2. How many people has GMP provided information about under the agreement?*
- 3. State the protests or other events where information was gathered in sent to you in last 12 months. By this, I mean the place the event happened, and the date(s).*

**DWP Response:**

The information that you have requested is not held by the Department.

However, you may find the following explanation useful. We have provided this outside of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act

There is no sharing agreement between the Department for Work and Pensions and Greater Manchester Police, or with any other specific police force. The sharing of any information between DWP and the police is agreed at a national level, with DWP's National Disclosure Unit handling all requests to disclose information to police forces and other law enforcement agencies.

There is no mandatory requirement for any police force within the United Kingdom to make referrals of suspected benefit fraud to DWP. Where information is received, DWP will check to see if there are grounds for further investigation, as with any potential benefit fraud allegation.

The greatest care is taken to corroborate information and where an alleged fraud is unsubstantiated an investigation will be closed at the earliest opportunity with no further action.

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

Yours sincerely,

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