

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

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

**Our reference:** IR2019/30893

**Date:** 5 September 2019

Dear Edward Williams

Thank you for your Freedom of Information review request received on 20 August. You asked:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'GMP agreement'.

You don't hold ANY of the info? Check again pls.

**DWP Response:**

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and the response has now been appropriately reviewed and that I was unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result of this review I am content that your original request was dealt with correctly.

I re-iterate here what you have been told before, that there is no sharing agreement between Greater Manchester Police and DWP or indeed any other specific police force.

Police Forces within the United Kingdom are not required to report suspected benefit fraud cases to DWP. Where information is received, from whatever source, DWP will check to see if there are grounds for further investigation, as with any potential benefit fraud allegation. The information sharing arrangement, with any source of this nature, is a two-way process and DWP's National Disclosure Unit handles all requests to disclose information to Police Forces and other law enforcement agencies. This service is provided under the Data Protection Act 2018, Schedule 2, Part 1, Para 2(1) for the purposes of preventing and detecting crime.

All allegations are examined and checked by our national Case Preparation teams to ensure there is sufficient information to progress the referral. If there is information to suggest a fraud is being – or has been – committed, and the person is receiving or has received benefits which are affected by that fraud, then the team route this to our Investigations or Compliance teams for them to decide the most appropriate action to be taken. Investigation cases are closed

at the earliest opportunity where it has been established that a fraud has not been committed.

I do hope the above has answered your question but if you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

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