

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

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

Our reference: WDTK 2991 & IR401

Date: 24 July 2017

Dear Mr Williams

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 27 June 2018 and FOI review request received 23 July 2018.

In reviewing your request the reviewing officer does not uphold your complaint as the Department has responded within 20 working days (i.e. before 25 July 2018)

Your original request asked:

“The final paragraph of your response states:

“DWPLA does have access to Management Information Quantitative Data Returns which detail the total number of claims brought against DWP. DWPLA holds this data for 2017 and may also hold this data for earlier years, although it is not thought the data goes back so far as 2010. However, this information simply lists the total number of new claims as well as letters before action received by DWP each year and it does not distinguish between new claims and letters before action. Nor does the information record what the claims or letters are in relation to. As a result, this information may not be sufficient so as to be of use to you.”

We would be grateful if you could send us the information referred to in that paragraph for 2017 and for as many years as you have it available back to 2010.”

DWP Response

Please find below the number of new cases recorded by the Department for Work and Pensions Legal Advisors ('DWPLA') for each year starting in 2014. DWPLA only began recording this data in June 2014 so the record for this year only covers the period from June onwards. 'Cases' includes all letters before action and claims served on DWP.

The returns for the period June 2014 to November 2015 include claims served which were filed in a tribunal. However, since December 2015 these claims have no longer been included in the returns. DWPLA does not record the number of claims brought in a tribunal.

Please note that the information recorded in the returns is collated from responses made by individual lawyers within DWPLA and it is not verified. As a result, it is possible that some cases have not been reported and other cases may have been reported multiple times. It is also possible that some letters before action may not have been brought to the attention of DWPLA. For this reason the returns are not necessarily an accurate reflection of the number of cases brought against DWP.

Year	New Cases
2014	102
2015	269
2016	152
2017	153

If you have any queries about this letter 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@dwpgsi.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