

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI2019/36721

28 October 2019

Dear Sam Smith,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 7 October. You asked:

*In May 2019, your contractor started work on this project, which was due to last 12 weeks:
<https://www.digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk/digital-outcomes-and-specialists/opportunities/8859#>*

Can you please provide:

- 1) Any end of project report or summary produced at the end of the 12 week contract period;*
- 2) A copy of all outputs from the work, as described under the 'Problem to be solved' section of the above opportunity, which states DWP "would expect the outputs of this work (eg any code base developed, connectivity created etc) to be owned by DWP at the end of the contract with no commercial dependencies on further development and deployment"*

DWP Response:

I can confirm that we hold the recorded information to respond to your request.

Please find attached the summary report of the 'DWP Health Assessments – Data Share'.

We recognise the need to have the right and relevant medical evidence available to healthcare professionals at the earliest opportunity and we remain committed to improving this process. As announced in March 2019, we want to transform the service to people with disabilities and health conditions and we will be integrating the services that deliver PIP and Work Capability Assessments from 2021.

By creating the integrated assessment service, we want to make the assessment process simpler, quicker, more user-friendly and more joined-up for customers. To support this, we are developing a single digital platform which focuses on the needs of those using it whether claimants, DWP staff or delivery partners. We will also, with individuals' consent, improve information sharing to reduce the burden of providing the same information multiple times. For example, by re-using relevant information already held within DWP.

We are also exploring whether we can improve how we get and use trusted medical information as part of the decision making process (for example, to reduce the time taken to get to a decision, the burden on the NHS and conducting face-to-face assessments only when necessary) from 2021. Whilst this research and the code-base shared as part of the work is useful and we will be keeping it in view, we are not currently progressing the specific recommendations in this report; our priority is to develop the IT system that will support the creation and delivery of the integrated assessment service.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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.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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745