

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

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

Our reference: VTR 501

Date: 07 April 2015

Anita Bellows

Dear Anita,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 07 February 2015 . You asked:-

Esther McVey confirmed during the Work and Pensions Committee session on the 4th of February 2015, that DWP conducted 49 peer reviews after deaths of claimants, but Chris Hayes said that 'we have found no particular case where, as a direct result of sanctions alone, that has led to someone being in that situation'.

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/work-and-pensions-committee/benefit-sanctions-policy-beyond-the-oakley-review/oral/17970.html>

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I would like to know how many claimants out of the 49 peer reviewed cases had received a sanction. This includes previous sanctions and sanctions at the time of their death.

And if it is within the cost limits, the number of sanctions for each claimant will also be useful

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It is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response. In the case of your request, I need to again extend the time limit because the information requested must be considered under one of the exemptions to which the public interest test applies. In this case it is section 36. This extra time is needed in order to make a determination as to the public interest.

Accordingly, I hope to let you have a response by 06 May 2015.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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@dpw.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