

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: Fol 615

Date: 13 March 2018

Dear Barbara Sunley,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 14 February 2018. You asked:

*Could your department clarify if the announced 1.6 million checks to be carried out on PIP claims will be in addition to the normal PIP reviews and the time period over which this will be carried out. With reference to the announcement made by the minister for disabled people. Sarah Newton*

### **DWP Response**

It may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not provide that a public authority must create new information to answer questions; nor does it provide that a public authority give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

In response to your question, I refer you to the statement given by the Minister for Disabled People, Sarah Newton, during the Urgent Question debate of 30 January, Column 703. You can find the official record of the debate here:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-01-30/debates/F35E85CB-FF67-467E-AD63-1C13EB1EC32B/PIPBackPayments#contribution-50DB27F6-1B0F-40FD-ACF4-03603BFCD33C>.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol 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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)