

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FoI 1593,1594,1595

DATE: 10 May 2017

Dear Mr. Burns,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests of 7 April 2017. You asked:

How many applications for PIP were successful and unsuccessful that been completed without a face to face assessment.

How many people have been awarded PIP without a face to face assessment.

How many Deaf people have been awarded PIP without a face to face assessment.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is designed to treat people as individuals, considering the impact of their impairment or health condition on their everyday life and how each claimant has personally adapted to living with a disability.

The Department encourages claimants to provide as much relevant evidence as necessary to support their claim. The "How your disability affects you" questionnaire and accompanying guidance also sets out the range of information that can help the Department reach a decision including, where appropriate, without a face-to-face assessment. The Health Professionals working for the Assessment Providers may also seek further evidence from any healthcare or other professionals supporting claimants which claimants have told them about on the questionnaire

Before claimants are assessed, all of the evidence held is reviewed by the Assessment Providers and if, at that stage, an assessment can be made on the paper evidence alone, then claimants will not be required to attend a face-to-face consultation. Guidance for Health Professionals in relation to assessments can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/547146/pip-assessment-guide.pdf

312,000 Paper-Based Assessments for Personal Independence payment (PIP) have been carried out between April 2013 and January 2017. Of these, 247,100 have resulted in an award of PIP.

1,730 people with the Primary disabling condition recorded within the category of Hearing Disorders have been awarded PIP without a face to face assessment. Table 1 below breaks this down by the conditions that make up Hearing Disorders.

Table 1 – Hearing Disorder conditions Assessment awards without a face to face assessment made between April 2013 and January 2017

April 2013 - January 2017	Awarded
Deafness - congenital	1050
Disease affecting hearing & balance - Other/ type not known	100
Hearing loss - mixed	120
Menieres disease	10
Conductive hearing loss - Other causes of / type not known	210
Sensorineural hearing loss - Other causes of / type not known	210
Labyrinthitis	#
Conductive hearing loss due to Trauma	#
Sensorineural hearing loss due to Trauma	10
Otosclerosis	#
Mastoiditis	10
Total	1730

Notes to figures;

- Data is based on primary disabling condition as recorded on the PIP computer system. Claimants may often have multiple disabling conditions upon which the decision is based but only the primary condition is shown in these statistics.
- PIP data includes normal rules and special rules for the terminally ill claimants, and is for both new claims and DLA reassessment claims.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Columns may not sum due to rounding.
- This is unpublished data. It should be used with caution and it may be subject to future revision.
- Data taken from the PIP computer system's management information.
- Figures are for Great Britain only.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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.gov.uk