



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2023/84909

1 December 2023

Dear David Jameson,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 6 November. You wrote:

“In November 2023 The DWP have rolled out a new, pre-WCA interview to 12 new areas in an effort to get more sick and disabled claimants moving towards work before any decision has been made about whether they have Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA).

According to the DWP, a ‘work ability plan’ is created in the course of a one-hour conversation between a health practitioner and the claimant.

According to the department, the Leeds pilot showed that most claimants were able to understand their own health better as a result of the discussion.

Freedom of Information Request

1. Please provide copies of any guidance and training, documents and slides etc provided to the health practitioner conducting the above work ability plan, if required redacting information where required by law
2. Please provide copies of any documents given to the claimant with regard to the work ability plan
3. Please provide copy of any statistics and insight into the Leeds Pilot redacting if required by law
4. Please provide a copy of the work ability plan
5. Please provide the number of health practitioners doing the work ability plan and what qualifications they hold
6. Please provide the total cost to the taxpayer of the Leeds Pilot and any projected costs for the entire pilot across all areas of the UK”

DWP Response

1. We confirm that we do hold the information you have requested. A copy of the information is attached as Annex A.
2. We do not hold the information you have requested.
3. We confirm that we do hold the information you have requested.

The Proof of Concept in Leeds Health Model Office began on 23rd May 2022. During the evaluation period (30th August 2022 – 7th February 2023), 173 referrals to the EHD were received.

4. We confirm that we do hold the information you have requested. A copy of the information is attached as Annex B.
5. 24 qualified HealthCare Professionals are delivering the Employment and Health Discussion, with a mixture of nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.
6. We do not hold the information you have requested.

DWP can show the direct costs of the work undertaken by Employment and Health Practitioners for the Leeds Pilot and direct cost estimates for planned pilot expansion across some areas of the UK. The total DWP costs you requested and specifically the total cost to the taxpayer are wider than the direct costs. They would include indirect overheads and are therefore not the same thing. These wider reaching total costs and further impacts on the taxpayer, are not separately identifiable for just the pilots.

The disclosed documents have where appropriate, been redacted to remove information which is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as personal information belonging to an individual other than the requester.

Section 40(2) exempts information in response to a request if it is personal data belonging to an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation. In this case the condition contained in section 40(3A)(a) applies - that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, specifically that "Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner...".

We do not consider that disclosing this information is necessary or justified in order to satisfy your information request and the requirements of the FoI Act. In relation to this request, we consider that there is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Personal data are subject to UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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 Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113