



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

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

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2023/95225

11 January 2024

Dear Amanda Hart,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 8 December. You wrote:

“I kindly request access to Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) procedures for monitoring and addressing potential harm caused by policies affecting disabled claimants (for any type of benefit they are already in receipt of) valid in August 2023.

Public Interest Statements:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** The divulgence of the requested information is paramount for fostering transparency and accountability within the DWP.
2. **Safeguarding Vulnerable Claimants:** The information sought is directly related to the oversight and mitigation of potential harm arising from policies, particularly concerning vulnerable and disabled claimants. This issue is of paramount public interest.
3. **Policy Impact Assessment:** Access to this information is instrumental in facilitating an impartial assessment of the impact of policies on claimants, thereby enabling the formulation of evidence-based policy enhancements.
4. **Public Confidence:** The release of the requested information has the potential to bolster public confidence in the DWP's commitment to the welfare of claimants.
5. **Policy Evaluation:** The information, if disclosed, can be invaluable in conducting independent evaluations of DWP policies to ascertain their alignment with intended objectives.
6. **Preventing Harm:** Comprehensive insight into the monitoring and remediation of potential harm is indispensable for preventing adverse outcomes for claimants.
7. **Academic Research:** Scholars and researchers can harness this information for rigorous studies and analyses, making significant contributions to knowledge and policy refinement.
8. **Advocacy and Support:** Advocacy groups and organizations can employ this information to champion the rights and well-being of disabled and vulnerable claimants.

9. Public Scrutiny: Accessible information on the impact of policies facilitates public scrutiny of governmental actions and decisions, thereby promoting transparency and accountability.

10. Legal and Ethical Considerations: The release of this information aligns seamlessly with legal and ethical obligations that mandate the protection of the rights and well-being of individuals.

I kindly request that the provided information be in electronic format, for ease of access and efficient communication.”

## **DWP Response**

Under Section 14(2) of the FoI Act, public authorities are not obliged to comply with a repeat request.

Where a public authority (in this case the DWP) has previously responded to a request for information which was made by any person, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request from that person unless a reasonable interval has elapsed between compliance with the previous request and the making of the current request.

In this case, the Department has already responded to a similar request from you, FOI2023/71247 on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October so, under section 14(2) of the FoI Act will not be responding further.

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

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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@dw.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dw.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP Central FoI 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.