

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/14385

25 April 2019

Dear Jordan Davies,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 9 April. You asked:

After being in dispute with you over a personal case for over the last 2 years and speaking to many other people in the same situation as me. I believe it is time now that you investigate the major failings of the Child maintenance service.

I truly believe that you should be recording deaths by suicide due to the failings of the CMS.

A petition should be signed and passed on to government instructing the above investigation. From the information I have personally gathered I believe the suicide numbers are in the thousands as the CMS do not look at individual cases. You are majorly failing the parents and children of this country.

DWP Response:

It may be helpful if I start by clarifying the remit of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FOIA gives any person legal right of access to any and all recorded information which is held by a public authority. The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

Therefore we can provide no comment or opinion on whether Child Maintenance Service should record this information.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me 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@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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
https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745