

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 August 2015 14:05

To: Judith Duffy <judith.duffy@heraldandtimes.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Welfare reform enquiry Sunday Herald

Hi Judith,

We won't have a comment for you regarding your question about representatives from the UN visiting the UK as all United Nations inquiry processes are confidential.

Please see our comment below:

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman:

"Suicide is a sensitive and complex issue and it is irresponsible to link it to our welfare reforms.

"We are committed to protecting the most vulnerable in society and spend more than £50 billion every year on disabled people and their services."

Sent: 30 August 2015 10:43

To: 'Siobhan Fenton'

Subject: RE: Request for Comment: UN Investigation

Hi Siobhan,

This isn't something we would be able to provide comment on.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Sent: 30 August 2015 12:08

To: dan.bloom@trinitymirror.com

Subject: DWP Statement

Hi Dan,

Statement below for you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

A DWP spokesperson said:

"All United Nations inquiry processes are confidential and we are unable to comment on the speculation surrounding this."

[REDACTED]
Sent: 30 August 2015 17:36
To: 'kathryn.snowdon@huffingtonpost.com'
Subject: DWP statement

Hi Kathryn,

Please see below statement.

Best,

[REDACTED]

A DWP spokesperson said:

"All United Nations inquiry processes are confidential and we are unable to comment on the speculation surrounding this."

[REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2015 11:59
To: Judith Duffy <judith.duffy@heraldandtimes.co.uk>
Subject: Re: UN investigation

Hi Judith,

Here is our response for your article.

Let me know if you need anything else.

[REDACTED]

A DWP spokesperson said:

"All United Nations inquiry processes are confidential and we are unable to comment on the speculation surrounding this."

[REDACTED]
Sent: 06 October 2015 14:20
To: 'Simon Hooper'
Subject: RE: Al Jazeera query re UN disability rights investigation

Hi Simon,

Please see response below:

DWP spokesman said:

“We strongly reject the allegations made by DPAC. The UK has a proud record of furthering the rights of disabled people, with the principles of the UN Convention at the heart of its approach.

“Suicide is a tragic and complex issue. The reality is that the mortality rate for people who have died while claiming an out-of-work benefit has fallen over a 10-year period. This is in line with the mortality rate for the general working-age population.

“Following reforms to the work capability assessment, which was introduced in 2008, people are getting more tailored support to return to work instead of being written off on long-term sickness benefits as happened too often in the past.”

Further info

We continue to spend £50b a year on disabled people and their services.

We continue to reform and modernize our public services and welfare system to ensure that disabled people are able to participate in every aspect of society.

Over the past year 226,000 more disabled people have found work. We are committed to halving the disability employment gap and supporting disabled people into work.

We are reforming an overly complex welfare system that too often has worked against the interests of disabled people by trapping them in dependency. We are committed to positive and progressive reform, which supports those who are able to enter and remain in work whilst providing support for those who need it.

DWP statisticians have made clear that no causal link can be made between the likelihood of dying and the fact that someone is claiming benefits.

The Government continues to support millions of people on benefits with an £80bn working-age welfare safety net in place.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

Sent: 16 October 2015 09:14

To: 'John Pring'

Subject: RE: UN inquiry

Morning John,

Please see below statements as promised:

On the UN inquiry:

DWP spokesman said:

“We strongly reject the allegations made by DPAC. The UK has a proud record of furthering the rights of disabled people, with the principles of the UN Convention at the heart of its approach. We continue to spend around £50b a year on disabled people and their services.”

On the Sumpter Judgement:

DWP spokesman said:

“We are pleased that the Court of Appeal has unanimously endorsed the decision of the High Court that the consultation process was fair and lawful. We remain committed to the full rollout of PIP a benefit which helps disabled people to live independently by ensuring support is focussed on those who need it most.”

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent: 16 October 2015 16:19

To: 'sally.hayden@vice.com'

Subject: UN inquiry

Hi Sally,

Please see below in response to your query:

DWP spokesman said:

“We strongly reject the allegations made by DPAC. The UK has a proud record of furthering the rights of disabled people, with the principles of the UN Convention at the heart of its approach. We continue to spend around £50b a year on disabled people and their services.”

When is your piece expected to run? Will it be online?

Let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent: 17 October 2015 16:48

To: 'Judith Duffy'

Subject: RE: UN investigation

Hi Judith,

Please use this as our comment:

A DWP spokesman said:

“We are committed to supporting the most vulnerable people in society and spend more than £50 billion every year on disabled people and their services. We are happy to inform the inquiry of this.”

Many thanks,

Stuart Woledge

On 18 Oct 2015 18:35 [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Patrick,

Here is our statement for your article on the UN inquiry.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

A DWP spokesman said:

“We strongly reject the allegations made by DPAC. The UK has a proud record of furthering the rights of disabled people, with the principles of the UN Convention at the heart of its approach.

“We are committed to supporting the most vulnerable people in society and spend around £50bn every year on disabled people and their services. We are happy to inform the inquiry of this.”

Further info

- We continue to reform and modernize our public services and welfare system to ensure that disabled people are able to participate in every aspect of society.
- We are committed to positive and progressive reform, which supports those who are able to enter and remain in work whilst providing support for those who need it.
- Over the past year 226,000 more disabled people have found work. We are committed to halving the disability employment gap and supporting disabled people into work.
- The Government continues to support millions of people on benefits with an £80bn working-age welfare safety net in place.

On 18 Oct 2015 19:23, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Patrick,

Slight revision to the statement, we've shortened it slightly – can you use this version please.

Thanks and sorry for any confusion.



A DWP spokesman said:

“We strongly reject the allegations made by DPAC. The UK has a proud record of furthering the rights of disabled people, with the principles of the UN Convention at the heart of our approach.

“We are committed to supporting disabled people in society and spend around £50bn every year on disabled people and their services. We are happy to inform the inquiry of this.”

Further info

- We continue to reform and modernize our public services and welfare system to ensure that disabled people are able to participate in every aspect of society.
- We are committed to positive and progressive reform, which supports those who are able to enter and remain in work whilst providing support for those who need it.
- Over the past year 226,000 more disabled people have found work. We are committed to halving the disability employment gap and supporting disabled people into work.
- The Government continues to support millions of people on benefits with an £80bn working-age welfare safety net in place.