

To: J Martin
request-425891-7e84eb1f@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI 3427

14 September 2017

Dear Mr Martin,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 17 August 2017.

You asked:

Can you point me to the legislation which allows DWP contractors (eg atos) to use the benefit and/or medical records of benefit claimants (who are legally defined as patients) without the consent of the individual?

How many benefit claimants have had their records used for training purposes for each year since 2006?

How many benefit claimants have received compensation for psychiatric injury resulting from assessments carried out by the likes of atos, maximus and capita since they were awarded contracts for assessments for DWP?

DWP response:

I have established that we do not hold any recorded information to answer your request. You should note that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) only applies to information held by the Department on the date of the request. It does not require us to create information. However, you may find the following explanation useful. We have provided this outside our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

The DWP and its Assessment Providers do not have access to any patient medical records, these are held by the National Health Service. The only information held are claim forms and evidence provided by claimants and their medical professionals, none of this personal information is used by the Assessment Providers for training purposes.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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 Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745