



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2021/47731

29 June 2021

Dear Matt Cooper,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 11 June. You wrote:

“Please can you provide the following:

- 1) The number of claims made under the Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme for all COVID-19 vaccines.
- 2) Of the number of claims in part 1, how many resulted in granting the payment?
- 3) The number of claims made under the Vaccine Damage Payments scheme for all vaccines excluding COVID-19 vaccines since 2000.
- 4) Of the number of claims in part 3, how many resulted in granting the payment?

If (and only if) the requirements for parts 3 and 4 fall outside the specified allowable costs under FOIA, please provide the expected cost of this analysis as evidence and publish the answers to 3 and 4 with a reduced timescale.”

DWP Response

The DWP has the information you have requested.

The Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme (VDPS) provides a one-off tax free payment, currently £120,000, to those people who are severely disabled as a result of vaccination against a specified disease, within the meaning of the Act.

It is not compensation. It is a payment to help ease the financial burden for those individuals where, on very rare occasions, vaccination has caused severe disablement. The Scheme does not prejudice the right of the disabled person to pursue a claim for damages through the courts. It should be considered in context with the range of support, financial and otherwise, that is available to disabled people in the UK, for example, free healthcare, social care support and disability benefits.

There have been many advances in medical knowledge and understanding of vaccine damage since the scheme was launched in 1979. Since then, numerous reliable research papers have been produced that demonstrate that vaccinations are safer than they have ever been and a rigorous licencing regime ensures that safety is of paramount importance.

Since 2014, the VDPS has been the joint responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Care who are responsible for the Policy and Legislation, and the Department for Work and Pensions who administer the Scheme.

To qualify for a Vaccine Damage Payment, two legal tests have to be met:

1. establishing, on the balance of probabilities, that the disablement was caused by vaccination covered by the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme (VDPS);
2. the resulting disablement is severe disablement (60% or more)

The majority of claims to the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme are turned down on the basis of medical assessments that have concluded, vaccination did not cause the disability.

145 claims have been received where vaccination against COVID-19 has been cited by the claimant as being responsible for the disabling condition. To date no payments have been made.

Since 1 January 2000, 2347 claims have been made, excluding those citing COVID-19.

Of those 2347 claims, 41 have resulted in an award.

The figures provided are correct to 16 June 2021

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 FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, 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.

Website: [ICO Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.