

13 September 2010

Dear A Novis

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 16 August 2010.

You requested the following information:

- Please could you send me figures on how many false claims of fraud are reported to your fraud hot line against disabled people in the last 3 years?
- Also what is the consequences for people who make such malicious allegations?
- Are they reported to the police as committing disability hate crime? If not why not?

I regret that I am unable to provide you with information you requested relating to the number of false claims of fraud reported to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline against disabled people in the last three years as the Department does not hold figures relating to false allegations, and do not have a criteria to establish such cases.

The remit of the Department's Fraud Investigation Service is to prove or disprove allegations of benefit fraud that are reported to the Department. Once information is received, checks are undertaken to establish whether a full investigation is appropriate. Where prima facie evidence is obtained to substantiate the allegation, a full investigation is undertaken and appropriate action taken against those who commit benefit fraud. Alternatively, where there is no evidence to support the allegation, the case is closed.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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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-reguexx@xxx.xxx.xxx.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-reguexx@xxx.xxx.xxx.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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 [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)