

Freedom of Information request 2962/2011

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Information request

Please could you supply the number of ODI staff who:

- are deaf
- know BSL
- are both deaf and BSL signers?

2. In your staff team or legal consultants, do you have anyone who has specialist legal knowledge in areas that include deaf or BSL issues?

3. Can their professional contact information be provided please?

DWP response

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) does not collect the information you have requested as this is classified as personal staff data and staff are not required to provide personal details of their disabilities.

The ODI is part of the Department for Works and Pensions and the department has no business reason to hold and store this level of sensitive information. Any information provided by DWP staff about their disabilities is on a voluntary basis and simply provides that persons opinion on whether they are disabled or not, it does not record the type of disability. As this is not mandatory, it does not provide information for all staff in ODI either.

DWP do record information on staff reasonable adjustments, but to answer your question by reviewing this data is not practical as this would involve the department reviewing all details that were recorded between the line manager and member of staff to ascertain the information but again this would not provide accurate information as the department records the reasonable adjustments agreed, but not the reason for the adjustment in great detail. This would only ever provide a partial picture at best and would likely breach the costs limit in reviewing all individuals' records to see if this exists.

I can assure you the ODI does work extensively with people with hearing loss and external organisations. We make every effort to reach out and engage with individual disabled people.

With regards to your question on legal consultants, we do not employ any legal consultants in the ODI.

Further information about our role can be found on www.odi.gov.uk