

Freedom of Information request 1483/2011

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Information request

Please send me the following information pertaining to the "top ten most 'ridiculous' excuses used by benefit cheats" as reported by, inter alia, Sky News (<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Article/201009116001752>):

- a) Any press releases, media op notes or other correspondence from the Department to media outlets or individual journalists concerning the story, and;
- b) The case records upon which each of the ten excuses is based. I appreciate these will need to be anonymised.

DWP response

In connection with point a) please find Annex A, the 'Fraud Excuses' press release. This was distributed via PA on Saturday 28th May, under embargo for Sunday 29 May.

Concerning point b), the top ten excuses used by benefit fraudsters were compiled using responses from a survey that benefit fraud investigators were asked to complete. Investigators were not asked to provide details of the cases where the excuses they put forward were used, and therefore we are unable to provide you with these details.