

Freedom of Information request 1625/2013

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Information request

To ascertain the precise number of people who have died since being officially declared fit for work in the financial year of 2011-2012 in the United Kingdom. (Including for 3 months after the end of the financial year so declarations of fitness to work towards the end of the financial year are given a fair time to be able to taken into account.)

Can you cross reference the names of people declared “fit for work” in their assessment for disability benefit on your own records with the names of registered deaths at the home office department?

Out of respect for the diseased and in the public interest for clarity please do not round off to the nearest hundred or ten. Can you provide the precise quantifiable number that will be produced from such observations?

Would you be able to indicate the spectrum of age and nature of the former claimants’ deaths?

DWP response

Information on the number of people who have died since being declared Fit for Work following a Work Capability Assessment is not readily available and would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 to produce. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.