

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI 1621

01/06/15

Dear Daniel McMorrow

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 18/04/15 in which you ask:

Based on. <http://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/dwp-carries-out-threat-to-ban-questions-from-disability-news-service/>

**Under Freedom of Information I ask...**

- a. How many news articles both online and print have the DWP been notified about?**
  - a.1 Where you informed of a publish date, or cut of date for response?**
- b. How many responses to above articles did DWP submit?**
- c. How many responses were outside the dates given in A and A.1?**
- d. Would the DWP apply the same policy of ignoring questions to any other news service for example the BBC or Sky News?**
- e. Where is the official DWP policy on News services?**

**Response:**

a. For us to ascertain the number of news articles that the DWP has been notified about, without any window of time or other constraint, would be impossible, as such records are not held. Were you to narrow your request, it is possible that we may be able to provide an answer. We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will be answerable.

a1. The DWP Press Office was informed by the Disability News Service that it intended to publish the article to which you have provided a link and was advised of the day it would appear on the DNS website. The DWP Press Office was not asked to provide any formal

statement in response, although DNS has quoted some correspondence between the two organisations in its article.

b. The DWP Press Office did not provide a statement in response to the above article, although DNS has quoted some correspondence between the two organisations in its article.

c. Not applicable.

d. The DWP Press Office applies the same standards to all media organisations with which it deals.

e. We are not aware of the existence of a "Policy on News Services". However, to be helpful, you may find useful the guidance for Press Officers which is contained in the Government Communication Service Propriety Guidance. This has been provided outside our obligations under the Freedom of Information regime, and is accessible at:

<https://gcn.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Government-Communication-Propriety-Guidance-GCS-vers-FINAL.pdf>

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-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 4th Floor, Caxton House, 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 [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)