

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/44228

6 January 2020

Dear Donna Landy,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 17 December. You asked:

*Please send me the annual figures for:*

- 1. The total amount of money awarded under the Vaccine Damage Fund, for each year since the fund s inception in 1979 until now.*
- 2. The total number of claims made under the Vaccine Damage Fund for each year since the fund s inception in 1979 until now.*
- 3. The total number of successful claims made under the Vaccine Damage Fund for each year since the fund s inception in 1979 until now.*
- 4. The total number of unsuccessful claims made under the Vaccine Damage Fund for each year since the fund s inception in 1979 until now.*

**DWP Response:**

I confirm we hold information relating to your request.

The Vaccine Damage Payments Act (the Act) was passed on 22 March 1979. An extra-statutory scheme was in place from 9 May 1978 until the passing of the Act.

Since 2014, the VDPS has been the joint responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Care who are responsible for the Policy and Legislation, and the Department for Work and Pensions who administer the Scheme.

The Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme (VDPS) provides a one-off tax free payment, currently £120,000, to those people who are severely disabled as a result of vaccination against a specified disease, within the meaning of the Act

It is not compensation. It is a payment to help ease the financial burden for those individuals where, on very rare occasions, vaccination has caused severe disablement. The Scheme does not prejudice the right of the disabled person to pursue a claim for damages through the courts. It should be considered in context with the range of support, financial and otherwise, that is available to disabled people in the UK, for example, free healthcare, social care support and disability benefits.

There have been many advances in medical knowledge and understanding of vaccine damage since the scheme was launched in 1978. Since then, numerous reliable research papers have been produced that demonstrate that vaccinations are safer than they have ever been and a rigorous licencing regime ensures that safety is of paramount importance.

It is worth noting that most of the disabling conditions claimed to have resulted from vaccination can also occur spontaneously in unvaccinated children and adults.

The majority of claims to the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme are turned down on the basis that vaccination did not cause the disability.

There has been no change in the causation criteria. They are applied consistently, in accordance with accepted expert guidance.

The table below shows the number of claims made and the awards paid each year since the inception of the scheme up to and including 30 November 2019. It should be noted that not all awards are made in the same year as the receipt of the claim. This is due to the time scales involved in gathering supporting evidence and the statutory time limits for the disputes process.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Claim s</b>	<b>Award s</b>	<b>Total Amount Paid (initial)</b>	<b>Total Amount Paid (top up)</b>
1977/78	6	0		
1978/79	1,712	36	£360,000	£2,448,000
1979/80	874	317	£3,170,000	£21,420,000
1980/81	121	256	£2,560,000	£17,272,000
1981/82	72	68	£680,000	£4,624,000
1982/83	98	38	£380,000	£2,584,000
1983/84	101	40	£400,000	£2,720,000
1984/85	111	36	£360,000	£2,448,000
1985/86	64	24	£250,000	£1,628,500
1986/87	76	17	£210,000	£1,142,000
1987/88	66	10	£160,000	£659,000
1988/89	38	3	£40,000	£200,500
1989/90	51	3	£60,000	£197,000
1990/91	34	1	£10,000	£68,000
1991/92	43	7	£120,000	£458,500
1992/93	49	13	£320,000	£821,000
1993/94	54	3	£50,000	£197,000
1994/95	78	7	£160,000	£446,500
1995/96	70	6	£170,000	£372,000
1996/97	69	5	£130,000	£314,000
1997/98	202	3	£90,000	£184,500
1998/99	135	0		
1999/00	90	4	£110,000	£249,000
2000/01	202	2	£50,000	£126,000
2001/02	146	3	£230,000	£61,500

2002/03	417	5	£500,000	
2003/04	165	5	£410,000	£68,000
2004/05	111	4	£400,000	
2005/06	106	5	£500,000	
2006/07	60	4	£310,000	£68,000
2007/08	53	2	£200,000	
2008/09	62	0		
2009/10	62	3	£230,000	£61,500
2010/11	91	1	£30,000	£61,500
2011/12	91	0		
2012/13	85	0		
2013/14	111	0		
2014/15	79	0		
2015/16	85	3	£340,000	
2016/17	52	2	£240,000	
2017/18	71	3	£360,000	
2018/19	78	2	£200,000	
2019/20	33	1	£100,000	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>£13,890,000</b>	<b>£60,900,000</b>

The current payment amount stands at £120,000. This increase was made by statutory sum order on 12.07.07. The amount of payment is determined by the date of receipt of the claim form. Previous payment amounts were:

- £10,000 for claims made from 09/05/1978
- £20,000 for claims made on or after 16/08/1985
- £30,000 for claims made on or after 15/04/1991
- £40,000 for claims made on or after 01/07/1998
- £100,000 for claims made on or after 22/07/2000

When the increase to £100,000 was announced in June 2000 the Secretary of State also stated that past recipients would receive a “top-up” payment to bring their original award up to £100,000 in real terms value. The amount of top up payments were:

- £10,000 Statutory Sum - £68,000 top-up Total £78,000
- £20,000 Statutory Sum - £64,500 top up Total £84,500
- £30,000 Statutory Sum - £61,500 top up Total £91,500
- £40,000 Statutory Sum - £58,000 top up Total £98,000

The following table shows the total number of unsuccessful claims made for each year since the inception of the scheme up to and including 30 November 2019. Again, it should be noted that not all disallowances are given in the same year as the receipt of the claim due to the time scales involved in gathering supporting evidence and the statutory time limits for the disputes process.

Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total
1977/78	6	1992/93	42	2007/08	46
1978/79	349	1993/94	53	2008/09	52
1979/80	1467	1994/95	58	2009/10	69
1980/81	128	1995/96	78	2010/11	80
1981/82	47	1996/97	63	2011/12	92
1982/83	61	1997/98	152	2012/13	85
1983/84	71	1998/99	178	2013/14	78
1984/85	111	1999/00	78	2014/15	94
1985/86	59	2000/01	181	2015/16	97
1986/87	70	2001/02	157	2016/17	40
1987/88	59	2002/03	387	2017/18	42
1988/89	36	2003/04	177	2018/19	92
1989/90	55	2004/05	119	2019/20	47
1990/91	27	2005/06	118		
1991/92	36	2006/07	69		
<b>TOTAL DISALLOWANCES</b>					<b>5406</b>

The 26 claims unaccounted for as an award or a disallowance are currently under consideration either as an initial claim or within the dispute process.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

---

#### 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@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, 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  
 Web: [ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745