



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Minister for Disabled People
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Sir Andrew Dilnot

Dear Sir Andrew

On 16 February 2015, Kate Green MP tweeted:

"#DWP hiding next #PIP stats showing continued failure to meet 16 week assessment promise by releasing on Budget day: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/personal-independence-payment-april-2013-to-january-2015>" (Source: <https://twitter.com/kategreensu>)

This tweet brings into question the impartiality of the publication date of the Personal Independence Payment Official Statistics produced by the Department.

I can assure you that neither I, as Minister responsible for the Personal Independent Payment, nor any other Departmental Minister or advisor, played any part in choosing the release date for this publication.

The Department's Deputy Head of Profession for Statistics, who took the decision as to the date of publication, has assured me that these statistics, like all Official statistics released by the Department, were produced in full compliance with the Codes of Practice for Statistics, with the publication dates pre announced 28 days before the release.

This will be the fourth release of the PIP Official Statistics series. Apart from the first release, all publications have been on the third Wednesday of the month, aligned with the Department's Quarterly Statistical Summary, ensuring that PIP caseload statistics will be released at the same time as the related Disability Living Allowance statistics.

By suggesting that there was any other motive in the choice of release dates is wrong and undermines the trust we should all place in Official Statistics.

Yours sincerely

Mark Harper

Mark Harper MP
Minister of State for Disabled People