

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

FoI Ref IR95:

15 March 2012

Dear Ms Peake,

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2012, seeking a review of our handling of your FOI request in which you asked for a list of all employers who are "Positive About Disabled People". Someone of a more senior grade than previously handled your request has carried out an internal review and I am now in a position to respond.

In responding, it may be helpful if I provide some information about how the Disability Symbol is awarded and how the list of employers having symbol status is maintained. DWP Disability Employment Advisers based in local Jobcentre Plus offices are responsible for awarding the Disability Symbol, undertaking annual reviews to make sure employers continue to adhere to the conditions under which it is awarded and providing information to a central point that maintains a list of employers having symbol status. This ongoing process means the list held centrally is almost constantly changing, as new employers are added, annual reviews undertaken and some employers removed. The list issued previously was our understanding of those employers currently having symbol status at the time of your request.

In terms of employers not on the list, but displaying the symbol, this could be due to an administrative oversight, i.e. information not feeding into the central point that maintains the overall list. I have therefore, arranged for a message to all Disability Employment Advisers, reiterating the importance of providing information to make sure the centrally held list is as up to date as possible.

Alternatively, an employer may still be displaying the symbol after their status has lapsed or been removed, which is of particular concern. I have therefore, asked the Disability Employment Adviser in Kentish Town Jobcentre to contact Shape-Creative Steps, which was awarded symbol status some time ago, but appears not to have been subject to a recent review and so does not feature on our list. If the Disability Employment Adviser confirms the organisation's ongoing commitment to the principles underpinning the Disability Symbol, I will ensure their details are added. I am sorry for any distress this has caused.

Having concluded my review, I am satisfied that we responded correctly to your original request for information.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

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