

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: 2015-IR68

25 August 2015

Dear Paul Anders,

Freedom of Information ref: 2015-IR68

Thank you for your request for an internal review of your Freedom of Information request 2014-5262.

You asked:

“I write with regard to my request for information of 4th December as I note that you have as yet been unable to provide a response. The original request can be found at the link below:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/esa_wr_ag_claimants_with_primary

As there have now been two calendar months since the request was made, I am requesting an internal review. I would appreciate it if this could be completed at your earliest opportunity.”

In your original request you asked:

“For each month from October 2008 to June 2014 inclusive, please give the number of adverse ESA (Work Related Activity Group) adverse sanction decisions broken down by:

ESA (WRAG) all: total number of claimants and number with adverse sanction decisions; ESA (WRAG) primary medical condition of drug abuse: total number of claimants and number with adverse sanction decisions; ESA (WRAG) primary medical condition of alcoholism: total number of claimants and number with adverse sanction decisions.

If possible, please also provide the reason for an adverse decision - i.e. failure to attend a mandatory interview or failure to participate in Work Related Activity.”

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. In conducting my review, I have discussed the reasons why the original reply was late and the handling and the decisions made by the officer who handled it.

Your original request was received on 4 December 2014 and a reply was due by 6 January 2015 and you did not receive a response until 24 March 2015 so we failed to respond in the statutory time limit of 20 working days and for this I apologise.

I hope you were satisfied with the response you received and that you feel confident in asking us for any further requests in future.

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@dwpgsi.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 www.ico.gov.uk