



Your Reference:

Our Ref: FOI IR 551

Date: 19 November 2015

Dear Mr McMorrow,

I am writing in response to your review request received on 23rd September 2015. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. An internal review has been carried out by someone of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your original request. I am now in a position to respond to you. In your review request you said:

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'AccessToWork'.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/448218/access-to-work-statistics-march-2015.pdf

"36,760 individuals were helped through Access to Work between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015"

If the department has no stats on successful applications where did the 36,769 come from? How do you account for the use of public money ?

As a result of this review I am satisfied that the original response was handled properly and that the outcome of your request was correct.

The 36,760 figure referred to in your request shows the number of individuals who received help from Access to Work in 2014-15. This includes individuals who have been assessed within the year or for whom there is an element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element has been made available within the year. While the Department does record the number of Access to Work applications which result in an applicant receiving help from the programme, it does not record the *total* number of Access to Work applications and therefore it is not possible to identify the proportion of applicants who are successfully awarded Access to Work.

This is explained in section 1.1.5 of the *Access to Work: Official Statistics* publication. The methodology used to obtain the figures provided is explained in section 1.1.3 while further technical details are provided in Annex B. The latest publication can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/access-to-work-statistics-on-recipients--2>

The Department does not record the total number of reviews or requests for reconsideration associated with Access to Work applications.

The Department does not record the number of Access to Work applications which include additional supporting documentation. Any additional supporting documentation that is provided is given due consideration by specialist advisors as part of the application process.

The Access to Work application process does not involve physical or medical examinations.

Your final question above (“How do you account for the use of public money?”) was not part of your original request and has therefore not been considered as part of this review. However, we hope that your concerns are addressed by the clarification that the Department does record the number of Access to Work applications which result in an applicant receiving help from the programme.

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

Yours sincerely,

E Lamasson

Disability Employment and Support Analysis

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