

DWP Policy Group Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/03690

5 February 2019

Dear V Bowen,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 24 January. You asked:

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

Were disability organizations consulted during the development of the universal credit process ? If so which ones ?

Please give documented advice given to DWP by disability organizations.

What other consultation took place regarding disabled claimants ? Were medical practitioners consulted, learning disability groups or any others as user representatives ?

Were amendments made as a result of any such advice ?

Is there ongoing assessment of the effect of UC on disabled claimants ? When will it report ?

Was implied consent considered necessary for some claimants from the start and if not when was it incorporated in Universal Credit law/regulations .

DWP Response:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request.

I can confirm that the Department holds this information. However, the information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

The Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question.

Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

Your request has been broken down to provide information that best meets what you have asked.

1. Were disability organizations consulted during the development of the universal credit process? If so which ones?

Please give documented advice given to DWP by disability organizations.

Please find attached the link to the Consultation outcome - 21st Century Welfare, this was published on 30 July 2010, pages 34 – 39, lists all the organisations that responded to the consultation: -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181144/21st-century-welfare-response.pdf

2.What other consultation took place regarding disabled claimants? Were medical practitioners consulted, learning disability groups or any others as user representatives?

Please see the link provided in response to question 1.

3.Were amendments made as a result of any such advice?

Please see the link provided in response to question 1.

4.Is there ongoing assessment of the effect of UC on disabled claimants? When will it report?

I have attached the link to the Universal Credit Impact Assessment and the Universal Credit Equality Impact assessment below: -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181147/universal-credit-ia-white-paper.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181148/universal-credit-equality-impact-assessment.pdf

5.Was implied consent considered necessary for some claimants from the start and if not when was it incorporated in Universal Credit law/regulations.

The written statement from March 2017 can be found here (<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-03-13/HCWS528>)

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Policy Group 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.gsi.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
https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745