



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
Information Team  
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request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2022/82317

26 October 2022

Dear Michelle Watts

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 17 October. You wrote:

“During the past 6 month period how many people who applied for Universal Credit had their application refused because it transpired that they had savings in excess of £16,000 which was not declared on their application form?  
Did any of the claimants face prosecution if their application was deemed to be fraudulent?”

### **DWP Response**

Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts a public authority from its obligations to confirm if the information being requested is held, if to provide that confirmation alone would exceed the cost limit set down in law.

That limit is set at £600, which represents one person spending 3.5 working days in locating, extracting and collating the information being requested, or, for the purposes of Section 12(2), determining if the information being requested is held.

In this instance the above cost exemption applies to your request in its entirety, as we could not establish whether or not the Department holds the requested information within the prescribed cost limit.

As required by Section 16 of the Fol Act, I have considered how I might help you to bring your request within the cost limit. However, as your request is very specific, I am unable to do so in this instance.

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

Yours sincerely

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

## **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.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, 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. 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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.