



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information  
Team  
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John Slater

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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: IR2022/97001

Date: 23 December 2022

Dear John Slater,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 4th December. You wrote:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Universal Credit Programme Board Papers Deposited 18 October 2022'.

Thank you for your response. Unfortunately, the FOIA does not prescribe anything called a "Publication Strategy". Sections 19 and 20 do however cover Publication Schemes.

Is the Department stating that the UC Programme Board Paper plan for publication as prescribed in Neil Couling's letter to the Commissioner on 03 August 2018 is a Publication Scheme as defined in the FOIA? If so, you might want to read the Commissioner's Model Publication Scheme, especially the part that describes the type of information that isn't usually covered by a Publication Scheme.

Setting that aside, I do not accept the justifications for the redactions, most due to the age of the information and the extremely high level boilerplate nature of the reasons that could have been copied word for word from previous refusals.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/universal\\_credit\\_programme\\_board\\_2](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/universal_credit_programme_board_2)

### **DWP Response**

In response to your internal review request, we can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed by someone unconnected with the handling of your original request.

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

Your complaint is therefore not upheld and the reason for this is as follows; We are satisfied that the quoted exemptions are engaged. The public interest test has been considered where exemptions are engaged, and the relevant arguments have been clearly set out and weighed as required by the FOI act.

We have reviewed these arguments and are persuaded that the public interest is best served by not releasing the redacted information.

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

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**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.

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