



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2022/102758

25 January 2023

Dear Nicholas Stoker,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 26 December. You wrote:

“Under the FOIA, I wish to seek information on the DWP Deputy Principal Private Secretary advert, which is currently been readvertised:

- 1 - A copy of the original advert and its relevant reference number?
- 2 - The number of applications received, how many had been sifted to interview and how many were successful?
- 3 - I wish to know why another advert has been advertised under 253649 for the same vacancy and what has changed.
- 4 - I wish to see all communications with regards to approval of this vacancy under 253649 and the relevant sign off from the responsible Senior Civil Servant.
- 5 - How do both these adverts sit with the Civil Service Commission for the same position, especially if there are successful candidates already in place?”

DWP Response

We confirm that we do hold the information you have requested:

1 - A copy of the original advert and its relevant reference number?

Please see attached the relevant candidate pack for the original advert. Reference: 245110.

Please see eligibility criteria:

“Eligibility

This role is open to suitably qualified existing SCS1 civil servants and those in accredited Non-Departmental Public Bodies on lateral transfer.”

2 - The number of applications received, how many had been sifted to interview and how many were successful?

The original campaign that went out as an expression of interest, received 6 applications was paused before sift to interview stage.

3 - I wish to know why another advert has been advertised under 253649 for the same vacancy and what has changed.

Further to point 2, the original advert was for an expression of interest role, only available to current Civil Servants at substantive SCS1 level. The new advert has been launched as an external, permanent competition open to everyone.

4 - I wish to see all communications with regards to approval of this vacancy under 253649 and the relevant sign off from the responsible Senior Civil Servant.

We can confirm that both the expression of interest and external permanent vacancies were signed off via the official DWP Senior Civil Service recruitment ministerial approval process. Please see attached redacted documents.

We are unable to provide you with some the information requested for point 4 as it constitutes personal data of someone other than yourself and as such, it is being withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 40(2) exempts information in response to a request if it is personal data belonging to an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation. In this case the condition contained in section 40(3A)(a) applies - that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, specifically that "Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner...".

We do not consider that disclosing this information is necessary or justified in order to satisfy your information request and the requirements of the FoI Act. In relation to this request, we consider that there is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Personal data are subject to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

5 - How do both these adverts sit with the Civil Service Commission for the same position, especially if there are successful candidates already in place?

Both exercises are compliant with Civil Service commission regulations; the first campaign was an EOI. After consideration, this was changed to a an external, permanent campaign.

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@dwpgov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central FoI 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. 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.