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DWP Finance and Commercial

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Date

27 February 2013

Ben Owen
(sent by email)

Dear Mr Owen,

Freedom of Information Act – Request for Information
Our Reference: FOI 559

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 4 February 2013. You asked:

“Further to your reply to my previous request where you stated the following:

"In March 2012, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), was made aware of an allegation in respect of the MWA programme run by A4e in the South East. Consequently, the Department's Internal Audit and Investigations team undertook an audit of its commercial relationship with A4e. Supported by Ernst and Young, they examined the controls operated by A4e's on all its current DWP contracts."

I would like to request the original documentation held by the DWP with regards to both the allegation and audits, including any reports produced as a result of the auditing process relating to the DWP's commercial relationship with A4e, and the audits for A4e's contracts with regards to the Work Programme, the New Enterprise Allowance programme and Mandatory Work Activity.

I can confirm that I am happy for all personal information that may be contained within the audit documents which might be covered by Data Protection legislation to be redacted."

We are writing to advise you that the time limit for responding to your request for information which was received on 4 February 2013 needs to be extended.

It is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response. In the case of your request, we need to extend the time limit because the information requested must be considered under one of the exemptions to which the

public interest test applies. This extra time is needed in order to make a determination as to the public interest.

Accordingly, we hope to let you have a response by 27 March 2013.

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

Yours sincerely

CD Communications 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-req@xxx.xxx.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 www.ico.gov.uk