

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: VTR IR225

30 April 2012

Dear Mr Newman,

I write in relation to your e-mail of 13 April 2012, requesting an internal Freedom of Information (FOI) review. You asked for:-

- 1 An internal review of Department for Work and Pensions handling of my FoI request. 'Absenteeism stats in DWP (1)' submitted on 13 March 2012

This case has been escalated to me to conduct the review. I note that you have submitted a further refined request dated 2 April 2012 and this is being handled separately and you should receive a response in relation to that request shortly.

In line with guidance on handling a request for review I have looked at the request afresh, weighing up all the circumstances and have come to the decision in respect of your questions that the original decision to refuse to supply data on the grounds of cost should be upheld.

My reasoning is that, having conducted a full review, whilst the Department holds some of the data you have requested it is not readily available in a format which allows it to be retrieved and processed to meet your questions and to attempt to do so would significantly exceed the specified cost limits

An appropriate cost limit has been specified in regulations for answering Freedom of Information requests and for central Government and it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request.

This is the final stage of review under the FoI Act which can be dealt with internally but the footnotes of this letter do set out for you what you may do to progress the matter to the Information Commissioner should you so wish.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

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 www.ico.gov.uk