

To J Newman
C/o request-101860-bd75965a@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 2936-IR98

DATE 21 March 2012

Dear J Newman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that was received by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi on 22 February 2012 and forwarded on for response by myself, the DWP Medical Services Contracts Correspondence Team (MSCCT) Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email you asked

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Atos Costs - 04/11 to 03/12'.

Why do you not answer direct questions directly? If you do not have the information, say so. If you are not prepared to release it, say so. This to and fro "game" is such a waste of time – no wonder central Government costs are so high (no response required). So,

- 1. To repeat, what is the budgeted cost to March 2012? I want a precise figure, not a meaningless average. If there is no budget (God forbid) just say so.*
- 2. In your reply, are you saying that Mr Grayling's statement was incorrect? Yes or no please*
- 3. Are you saying that you have no forecast to the year-end, or just that you are not prepared to release it?*

As Reviewing Officer, I have read your letter and accepted this as a request for an Internal Review in order that I can check that the information sent to you clearly and accurately answered your request. I have therefore conducted a full investigation into your original request and the information supplied to you. I have also reviewed any decisions to withhold information and in doing so I have fully considered the public interest in disclosure.

The letter dated 22 February 2012 (FOI 2832-308) refers, and I am satisfied that all the information on **Qs 1 & 3** in relation to the **2011-2012** spend by DWP on the Medical Services Contract that DWP is able to supply to you, until such time as managerial and National Audit Office checks have been completed, has been supplied.

In reviewing your request I uphold in part the decision of the MSCCT Freedom of Information Officer and have added information in relation to **Q 2**, as I can confirm that the Ministers statement in relation to the financial year **2010-2011** was correct, as this is the figure which has been released into the public domain after the completion of the managerial and National Audit Office checks.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol 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-xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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