

To Mr J Newman
C/o xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 3491-IR412

Date 11 September 2012

Dear Mr Newman,

Thank you for your emails dated 25 June, 26 June and 15 July 2012. These requests have been forwarded on to the DWP Medical Services Contracts Correspondence Team (MSCCT) to respond to.

I have conducted a full investigation into your original request to check that the information previously supplied to you, clearly and accurately answered your request.

Firstly may I take this opportunity to apologise for the significant delay in responding to your requests for an internal review of the response previously supplied, and for not keeping you updated of the progress of your request.

DWP is working to avoid any such delays occurring in the future.

In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Atos Costs - VfM Savings'.

Please note that my previous IRR was based on time delays the initial request and my first IRR.

This is based on the content of response 1274.

You have provided some numbers but not indicated their source or how they have been derived and/or authenticated or derived as requested.

Chris Grayling implied a real net reduction in Government expenditure – is that what these figures represent? “Non-cash added value” is not savings, so I would like to see for each quarter the actual reduction in expenditure shown separately.

A saving is the difference between one level of expenditure and another. For each quarter shown what were the two figures used and where can each be authenticated?

Are the figures you have shown a real reduction in expenditure manifesting itself as a true reduction to taxpayers, or a theoretical construct?

Having reviewed your request in full the MSCCT Fol IRO is satisfied that the information that DWP has supplied you with is correct and that your request for evidence of the value of the VfM savings has been fulfilled.

Moving on to your questions above, you should note that the Freedom of Information act only applies to information held by the Department on the date of the request. It does not require us to create information, and the figures provided within our response to your previous request is the information held by the Department, therefore, there is nothing else to provide.

The FOI Act is not a complaints mechanism and does not require us to undertake new work to create information, deal with a complaint or to enter into a debate about how the figures we have provided you with were derived or authenticated.

The MSCCT Fol IRO again apologises for the delay in our response.

If you have any queries about this letter 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 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