

Karen

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30 May 2019

Ref: FOI2019/06729

Dear Karen

Enquiry: Universal Credit

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 May 2019. You made the following enquiry:

"Why would you take people's tax credits away when they are being made to go onto universal credits for a change of circumstances? Some of these people have been receiving the benefit for 13 or more years! This system is actually making people worse off and getting into debt. It's making it harder on businesses to get money back from people! Children are going hungry, wearing clothing to small! Not being able to wash or have clean clothing! how is this fair?"

I think that benefit should be untouched just like child benefit after all child tax credits are to help support the child! It's bad enough you can only claim for 2 children, without stopping the money they already received.

Can I ask why you pay for families not living in the United Kingdom? You want to cut down on spending maybe you should put an end to that!"

Although you have cited Freedom of Information in the subject line of your request, your enquiry does not fall within the scope of the FOI Act. The FOI Act provides a right to recorded information. In order to exercise this entitlement a request must describe the specific recorded information sought. We believe that the terms of your enquiry do not constitute a valid request for recorded information within the meaning of section 8(1)(c) of the FOI Act, as it is not a request for specific content. We are therefore responding outside the Act.

You may also wish to note that under section 8(1)(b) of the FOI Act, requests must state the name of the applicant. It appears that this part of the FOI Act has not been complied with in relation to your correspondence because a first name in isolation is not considered a valid name for the purposes of this section.

For all enquiries regarding Universal Credit, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is best placed to provide you with further information.

Contact details for DWP can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letters 'IRU' with a stylized flourish.

Information Rights Unit.