



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: IR2023/01330

2 February 2023

Dear Emma Milton,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 8th January. You wrote:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Business Continuity policy'.

In my request I sought copies of your departments business continuity an/or organsiational resilience policies that were in effect in the last three year, copies of any reviews of the policy and copies of any governance documents relating to the policy. In a very rapid turn around by the DWP my request has been refused under Section 31(2)(i) of the act with the department stating that release of these plans, including the policy, would constitute a threat to the department.

I want to challenge this decision, I have not asked for any business continuity plans only information related to the departments business continuity policy. As an experienced business continuity professional I fail to see how releasing this policy, with appropriate redactions, would constitute a threat to the department, its people or to law enforcement interests.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/business\\_continuity\\_policy\\_2](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/business_continuity_policy_2)"

## **DWP Response**

In response to your internal review request, we can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed by someone unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result of this review we can advise that the original response was partly correct. Your complaint is therefore partially upheld. The reason for this is that Section 31(2)(i) is correct in covering reviews and governance due to the sensitive nature of the information that would have been discussed for those, however the release of the policies and strategies themselves should have been given as that has previously been in the public domain.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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### **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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.