

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: VTR 5488

Date: 16 January 2015

Dear Mr Goggins,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 25 December 2014. You stated:

Please provide a copy of template letters sent out to women who were claiming benefits without stating the name of their child's father.

The letters sent that stated they would have their benefit cut/stopped if this information was not provided.

DWP does not have a national policy of cutting/stopping benefits should a claimant not wish to give the personal details of the father/mother of a child on their benefit claim.

When a person claims a working-age benefit, they are asked whether they would like to be referred to Child Maintenance Options which is a service to provide information about choices available to them in respect of child maintenance. If the claimant does not wish to be referred to Child Maintenance Options then this is noted on our system and no further action is taken.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745