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 FoI Team

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www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745