

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: VTR IR 406

DATE: 20 May 2013

Dear Mr Zola,

I am writing in response to your review request received on 06 May. An internal review has been carried out by someone of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your original request. I am now in a position to respond to you. In your review request you said:

*Dear Department for Work and Pensions,*

*Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.*

*I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Copy of submissions for 'Extending labour market interventions to in-work claimants – call for ideas'.*

*I requested you send the information to me by email, you did not, which is a subversion of a basic tenet of the Freedom of Information, that being requesting information in a particular format at the time of the request. It would appear the DWP is trying to frustrate public access to its information by providing a small file of data via a CD to a postal address.*

*Please supply the data in the format and means requested.*

*A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:*

*"Please email me a copy of each submission sent to you by email [uc.newapproaches @ dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:uc.newapproaches@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) for the 'Extending labour market interventions to in-work claimants – call for ideas' consultation which ended today."*

*[http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/copy\\_of\\_submissions\\_for\\_extending](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/copy_of_submissions_for_extending)*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frank Zola*

I have read both your original request for information, our reply and your request for the review outlined above.

The Freedom of Information Act (s11(1) and (2)) allows an applicant to specify the provision of information in a permanent form or in another form acceptable to them. The public authority shall so far as reasonably practicable give effect to that preference but it may have regard to all the circumstances including the cost of doing so.

It would not have been reasonable, practical, or cost effective to comply with your request for the information via email, and this should have been explained to you. A DWP security feature would have required redacting the word 'Emailblock' on every email response sent by a DWP member of staff and rescanning it back as a new and separate document. DWP also imposes outgoing email data size restrictions which would have meant sending over 280 consultation replies in a number of different emails.

Not unreasonably, we took the fact that on 25<sup>th</sup> April you provided us with an address to which we could send the requested information on a CD as your agreement that you were happy to receive the information in that, rather than an email, format.

I note that despite receiving the responses in a CD format you have listed them on the 'What Do They Know' website.

I feel the answer we provided originally addressed your issues and concerns from a Freedom of Information perspective and that the response was sufficient.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

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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 [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)