



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

C Thompson

020 7270 5000
foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

Dear C Thompson

13 June 2019
Ref: R46/18
FOI2018/15973

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Internal Review: Consolidating of Contracted out Deductions

Thank you for your email of 18 October 2018, requesting an internal review of our handling of your Freedom of Information request of 20 September 2018, our reference: FOI2018/15973. I am sorry for the delay in providing this review response.

Your request

On 20 September 2018, you requested the following information:

"Can you please tell me if you have been in correspondence with the DWP regarding consolidating of Contracted out Deductions for each year post State pension Age as mentioned on page 25 of Pensions bill 2011 MPs' information pack and if so let me have copies of the correspondence.*

Please see relevant wording shown below.

"further calculation will then be made to establish the value of this Contracted-Out Deduction for each year post State Pension age using the average number of years a pension is in payment"

[*The MP's Information pack referenced in your request can be found at the link below.

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110601202012/http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pensions-bill-mpip.pdf>]

On 17 October 2018, we responded, providing you with the information we held in scope of your request.

On 18 October 2018, you requested an internal review, as follows:

I asked to see copies of correspondence between Treasury and DWP. Can you please send copies of correspondence relevant to my request as you have not sent me copies of any correspondence as requested by me in my original request.

I notice you mention that consolidation of contracted out deductions (COD) was not implemented. Can you give me a date of when it was decided not to consolidate COD and if this was decided by Treasury DWP, or Parliament and let me have a copy of the correspondence mentioning COD consolidation would not be implemented.

Can you please tell me the date of the information you sent me.

The Review

I have considered the response we provided to you and whether our handling was compliant with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act). I am satisfied that reasonable searches were carried out at the initial handling stage and we identified relevant information in scope.

I can confirm, with reference to your review request, that the information we provided was the only information we identified as in scope of your request. We did not locate any correspondence meeting the specific terms of your request. As we explained in our reply, any text in the Pensions Reform Delivery Programme document that was not relevant to your request, was deemed out of scope and was not supplied.

You asked for the date of the document and I can confirm that it was dated 24 September 2008.

Turning to your review request, I note that you have asked some further questions on the subject of consolidation of contracted out deductions. I can confirm that we have not located any information on the specific points you have raised. I note that you have separately submitted similar requests on this topic to the Department for Work and Pensions and they confirmed the following to you on 21 November 2018:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/532270/response/1268267/attach/2/FoI%2009367%20reply.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

"The new State Pension greatly simplified the entire state pension system including additional State Pension and specific aspects of the old scheme, such as consolidation, were not subject to correspondence with HMT, were not considered separately by Parliament and were not subject to an impact assessment."

I note that they have provided further explanation to you in subsequent correspondence on the topic.

Conclusion

I hope that by setting out the basis of the review, its findings and conclusions above, you will be assured that the Treasury has, on your behalf, carried out a thorough and considered review of the request you made and the responses that the Treasury gave under the FOI Act.

If you are not content with the outcome of this internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Commissioner can be

contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

IRU

Correspondence and Information Rights Team Leader

