

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: 638 & 727

23 November 2012

Dear J Colton

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request, which we received on 1st November 2012.

I am independent to those who dealt with your requests previously and I can confirm that I have carried out a review of your requests.

You have asked us:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Crimestoppers/DWP Fraud Campaign'.

My last request 28th Sept 2012 was asking for the reduced list (960 anonymised records) of calls received via the Crimestoppers system.

It has now been over 1 month since this request was made, you are in default of the allowed timescale.

Please resolve this ASAP!!

Your request of 28 September 2012 was not dealt with in accordance to DWP guidelines for FOI and for that I apologise on behalf of the Department and I will take this forward in how requests are handled

On 28 September 2012 you asked us:

So now that we have agreed that there were only 960 and NOT 4000+, it should not be a problem for you to send the 960 reported headline details received from Crimestoppers, of course with any meaningful client/suspect names anonymised (e.g John Colton =>Jjjj Cccccc.

I can clarify the figure of 960 that you quote represented the number of cases received by our Customer Compliance teams from instances of reports of alleged fraud by members of the

public through Crimestoppers between 1st December 2011 and 31st May 2012 at the time of reporting. These cases are a proportion of the 4,152 instances of all fraud reported by members of the public through Crimestoppers during the period 5th December 2011 to 4th March 2012.

Your requests, including your latest requests is that you want the specific outcome of each of the instances of alleged fraud that was reported through the Crimestoppers initiative. It remains the case that no central record is kept and this information could only be provided by going into individual investigation files. We estimate that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

I hope this is helpful but if you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.gov.uk

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

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