

John Pring
jpringnews@googlemail.com

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

Our Ref: IR 12
Date : 28 January 2015

Dear John Pring,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) internal review request received on 6 January 2015. You asked:

I would like you to review this answer as it clearly does not answer the question. Please ask the minister's private office which disability organisations agree with the Govt's ILF policy.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed and that I was unconnected with the handling of your original request.

In your original request you asked: *“On 8 December, Mark Harper, the minister for disabled people, said in work and pensions questions in the Commons that disability organisations “agree with the government” over the closure of the Independent Living Fund and the decision that was taken not to ring-fence the funding given to local authorities. I would be grateful if you could tell me which disability organisations the minister was referring to”.*

This Department responded to your request on 6 January 2015 stating: *“I have conducted a search of Department records and conclude that the information you have requested is not held.*

However, the Minister for Disabled People’s Private Office has confirmed that the Minister does meet regularly with a large number of disability organisations and holds a wide range of discussions, both formal and informal. This includes a regular monthly meeting with the Disability Charities Consortium - an informal coalition of seven disability charities; Action on Hearing Loss, Disability Rights UK, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Mencap, Mind, RNIB and Scope – and attendance at the Fulfilling Potential Forum. The latest Fulfilling Potential forum was held on 23 October 2014 and was attended by around 30 disability organisations”.

As a result of this review: I am satisfied that the original response was handled properly and that the outcome of your request was correct. The reasoning behind this decision is as follows;

Requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 apply to recorded information. I am satisfied that the information you have requested is not recorded, this is because Ministers hold a number of informal conversations with stakeholders, for which no formal records are held by the department.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745