

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: IR 188

23/4/14

Dear C Thompson,

I am writing in response to your review request received on 7 April 2014. 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:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Discussions with HM Treasury regarding the GMP increases that are currently in effect provided through Additional Pension not being provided under new single-tier pension model'.

I think they should be able to give the information as it is vital that the public know that the information they are being given is accurate and that important information is not being withheld because it embarrasses the Government if it became known that people in public service are being given special privileges regarding cost of living increases on GMPs normally paid by DWP with the Additional State Pension.

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

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/discussions_with_hm_treasury_req

Whilst the Freedom of Information Act creates a right to request and receive information, it also creates a number of exemptions from those rights. These have the effect of permitting us to withhold some or all of the information requested, but only where that information fits the conditions of one or more of the exemptions.

Having reviewed your request, I believe the decision to withhold copies of correspondence between HM Treasury and the Department for Work and Pensions about GMP increases after the new State Pension is implemented in April 2016, is appropriate. This is on the basis that the requested information satisfies the exemption criteria set out in the following sections of the Freedom of Information Act:

- 35(1)(a), which is about information which relates to the formulation or development of government policy; and
- 42, relating to confidential legal communications.

The DWP has, however, placed in the public domain detailed information relating to this aspect of the State Pension reforms, for example in our response on 5 March 2014 in response to your Fol's of 6 February 2014 and 11 February 2014.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

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