

Dear Trevor Price,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 26 February 2019. You asked:

*“Behavioural Science Unit (BSU) - External Companies/Organisations/Consultancies*

*Please could you tell me if any external companies, consultancies or organisations have been directly involved with the BSU and the name of the company, consultancy or organisation”*

### **DWP Response**

I can confirm that we hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, the scale of your request is very broad. As such, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would **exceed the appropriate limit for central Government, set by regulations at £600**. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Under section 16 of the Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit.

Since its inception, the Behavioural Science team has interacted with a large number of organisations and individuals. For example: the team frequently has had external speakers from academic and consultancy backgrounds come and share knowledge and expertise. Team members have also gone on training courses and away days hosted by external organisations. In addition, the team sometimes involves relevant external stakeholders in its work through events such as workshops.

Specifying the nature of the interactions or involvement you’re interested in may help to narrow this request. For example, you may wish to consider specifying what you mean by “...*have been directly involved in the BSU...*”. Limiting your inquiry to a specific timespan might also help this request fall within the cost limit. We will consider afresh any revised request; however, we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us 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 happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central FOI 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  
[https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745