



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
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SW1H 9NA

Isaac Roberts
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[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2023/42769

29 June 2023

Dear Isaac Roberts,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 4 June. You wrote:

“On Thursday 25 May, the DWP's National Race Network held an online event on Microsoft Teams to mark the third anniversary of George Floyd's death. During the event, civil servants were invited to make comments in the accompanying Teams chat.

(1) Please confirm whether any of the comments posted during the live event within the Teams chat mentioned Suella Braverman (the Home Secretary).

(2) If any of the comments did mention Suella Braverman, please provide the full text of the comments (i.e. all sentences contained within the comment).

(3) For any comment referenced above in (2), please indicate how many civil servants reacted to the comment with a 'thumbs up'.”

DWP Response

We confirm that we do hold the information you have requested.

A copy of the information is provided below:

- (1) Having review the chat from the George Floyd Anniversary event held on the 25th May 2023 on Microsoft Teams; there was one comment made which referenced Suella Braverman, by an employee who has since retired from the Department for Work and Pensions.
- (2) ‘It does not help that we have a Government cynically using race and difference ofr their own ideological reasons. People have been encouraged to be openly racist after comments from Suella Braverman etc.’
- (3) 12

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

Yours sincerely,

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@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113