



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Central FoI Team
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www.dwp.gov.uk

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

Date 15 May 2017

Our Ref: VTR IR**152/209**

Dear Mr Watson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) internal review request received on 31 March 2017. You asked:

Please provide verifiable examples of DWP Senior Civil Servants partaking in any of the activities listed.

If a list of volunteering activities undertaken by DWP Senior Civil Servants is not held centrally how do you know this is what DWP Senior Civil Servants do in their spare time?

You said that you find it impossible to believe Senior Civil Servants partake in the activities listed (in the original response).

DWP Response

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

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:

There is no central, comprehensive and verifiable record of volunteering activities undertaken by Senior Civil Servants.

From time to time, Senior Civil Servants may arrange for a record of a particular volunteering activity in which they have taken part to be posted to our internal staff intranet. This is because they may wish to raise the profile of the organisation or charity involved.

One such organisation is Community 10000, which is DWP's employer supported volunteering initiative. It gives staff the opportunity to experience for themselves the obstacles faced by our customers on a daily basis, giving us a better understanding of the resources available within communities upon which they may rely. We work with a broad range of organisations who offer a variety of roles to DWP colleagues, including those of a practical, hands-on nature as well as those that are more skills based.

Similarly, Senior Civil Servants may engage in volunteering which they wish to keep entirely private.

Therefore, whilst it is not practicable to maintain a central record of volunteering activities undertaken by Senior Civil Servants there are examples available from the DWP staff intranet to demonstrate that this does take place.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the Department 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 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