

O.S  
whatdotheyknow

Our Ref: IR 344

Date : 25 June 2015

Dear O.S,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) internal review request received on 21 June 2015. You asked:

*Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.*

*I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'EMA, NEA, JSA, ESA, DLA, PIP, Bursary Fund, Incapacity Benefit and Universal credit claimant statistics'.*

*The reason that I was given for you not being able to complete the request was that I had provided you with a false name. That was no true. In the reply you gave me I was also given a link where I could find out more information about submitting a request properly and the web page did no exist on the server. Not that I actually did need the help to submit the FOI properly as I DID you the correct name.*

*A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/ema\\_nea\\_jsa\\_esa\\_dla\\_pip\\_bursary](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/ema_nea_jsa_esa_dla_pip_bursary)*

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 FoI request you signed it off with only the name Oliver. The only other identifying details on the request were the initials O.S.

In your review you said that you submitted your original request in the correct manner for the purposes of FoI. My apologies that the link provided did not work, as this would have explained to you that using only your initials, forename or surname by themselves is insufficient to have a valid FoI request. Please find enclosed another link to the Information Commissioners website page relating to section 8 of the FoI Act. <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1164/recognising-a-request-made-under-the-foia.pdf>

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 that page 7 of the above Information Commissioners guidance clearly states that the when you used the information 'O.S' and 'Oliver' to identify yourself this was insufficient for the purposes of the Fol Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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**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](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745