

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our reference: IR43

Date: 8 February 2018

Dear A. James

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 25 January 2018

You asked:

Your response is rather confusing as I did not ask again for the information that you are alleging is exempt. What I asked for was the communication sent by the DWP to the ICO and the resulting guidance (in its original form) that the DWP received back from the ICO (and that you are apparently relying on in your refusal to disclose the documentation I originally requested).

It is deeply concerning that, as a Department of Government, the DWP apparently feels so comfortable withholding information and acting contrary to the principles of open and transparent government in the public interest.

Please supply the requested correspondence forthwith.

DWP Response:

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request; I was not involved previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review.

I have reviewed responses previously provided to you in order to help me understand the nature of your request and also the responses provided.

Having done this I can confirm that under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we are unable to process your request further. This includes adding to the estimates costs of complying with a later request, the cost of complying with a request that has already been answered.

The FOI Act provides that requests can be aggregated for the purpose of estimating whether the cost limits apply. This is where more than one request has been made within 60 consecutive working days relating to the same or similar information and the requests have been made by the same person.

In applying this section the Department have considered that all of your requests have been related to the operations of the Child Maintenance Group.

The decision to apply Section 12 includes adding the estimates costs of complying with a later request and the cost of complying with requests that have already been answered.

We estimate that the cost of complying with your requests would exceed the appropriate limit for central Government, set by regulations at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department. When making this decision I have also taken in to account the time spent responding to your previous requests (references 103, 5068 and 4618).

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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 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
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745