

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

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

Our reference: IR2019/11030

Date: 26 March 2019

Dear Jamie Evans

Thank you for your Freedom of Information review request received on 14 March. You asked:

I am shocked that there is no running costs from the DWP regarding the CMS but a national Newspaper found these figures. Surely any business knows what the running costs are for there departments.

*The above also goes regarding the online portal How can this be true?
"Regarding the on line portal, there was no single funding charge raised for the portal as it was funded and delivered in an iterative approach alongside other I.T releases"*

What business would start a process with costs without knowing what the costs are? !!!

Please update the request with the above FOIs please with running costs of the CMS and also the cost of the portal.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply

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 am now in a position to respond to you.

It may be helpful if I start by clarifying the remit of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FOIA gives any person legal right of access to any and all recorded information which is held by a public authority. The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

Therefore we cannot comment on the validity of figures provided by a national newspaper however can confirm the total costs of running Child Maintenance Service are not directly available. As explained this is because the DWP do not attribute all costs to individual operational services but cut across several services.

Regarding the on line portal, I can confirm there was no single funding charge raised for the portal as it was funded and delivered in an iterative approach alongside other I.T releases.

I am content that your original request was dealt with correctly and that we have no information that we can provide.

I hope this is helpful but if you have any queries about this letter please contact me 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 this 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

ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745