

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

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.gov.uk

Our reference: IR 365

Date: 1 September 2016

Dear A. Clerk,

Re: Internal Review of VTR 2956

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) review request, which we received on 22 August 2016.

I can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. I am now in a position to respond to you.

You have asked us:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Headgear'.

You completely side stepped my request.

Please provide me with the relevant laws that gives you the right to discriminate against me for wearing headgear but not people who's faith dictates that they wear headgear at all times.

You responded...

"It is reasonable to request that headgear such as hats, hoodies or crash helmets be removed by claimants whilst on site where staff reasonably feel that this negates their ability to conduct the business for which the customer is attending. "

This is absolute proof that you are discriminating against people wearing the above head gear but not against people who use complete head coverings for religious reasons.

In what way would a hat etc negate the staffs ability to conduct the business for which the customer is attending and not someone who wears complete headgear because of their faith?

I am now in the process of claiming damages for your discriminatory behavior towards myself. You have victimized me and caused me alarm and distress on more than one occasion.

Our Response:

I am content that your original request was dealt with in accordance with DWP guidelines for Fol requests. The Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold. I have nothing further to add to our response.

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 happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP, Central Fol 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