

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: VTR 135

5 February 2014

Dear Carole Muller,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received 11 January 2014. You asked:

*"How many submissions made to JSA sanctions independent review, what are names of organisations or individuals who submitted them?"*

We are unable to provide the information requested. The terms of reference for the review, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions-independent-review>, clearly state that the review is being carried out independently of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Freedom of Information Act applies to recorded information held by a public authority at the time the request is received. As stated above, in this instance responses to the "call for evidence" are not held by DWP because they are held on behalf of the independent reviewer. Therefore, the Department's position is that, for Fol purposes, the responses are not held by DWP.

You should also note that information submitted to the review was done so in confidence as requested by the reviewer. The call for information (now closed) states that:

*"All responses will be treated in confidence unless we explicitly seek your permission to attribute your comments".*

The report when completed will be published and will contain information gathered from the call for information.

In any event, as explained above, the independent reviewer has made it clear that all the responses will be treated in confidence. This means that even if the Department did hold the information sought, it would be exempt from disclosure under section 41 of the Fol Act - information provided in confidence.

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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)