

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: IR 193

23 May 2014

Dear J Roberts,

Thank you for your recent correspondence which we have accepted as a review of your previous FOI request (reference 1320). You specifically asked;

*Thank you for your response. I have, however, a query concerning your answer to my third question.*

*The question concerned not the number of sanctions imposed on claimants by providers, but the details held by contract providers in each of the 18 Contract Package Areas regarding the number of sanctions imposed. If contract providers are notified by the DWP that the doubts they raised resulted in sanctions being imposed, then the DWP would have a record of the addresses to which details of the number of sanctions imposed are sent. If so, and the information is passed solely to the head offices of the Work Programme providers concerned, then there would be only 18 addresses. However, if the information is passed to Work Programme provider offices at a lower level in the chain (e.g. "Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: Avanta Enterprise Ltd") then the number of addresses would be significantly greater.*

*Can you confirm that the DWP does not pass details of the sanctions it imposes on Work Programme participants to Work Programme providers at a lower level in the chain (e.g. "Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: Avanta Enterprise Ltd")?*

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding, but please be assured that your request has been given our full consideration and that all aspects of your review were taken fully into account.

The review was conducted by an independent official of the Department, of the relevant grade and authority to carry out such requests. The case has been examined afresh, and guidance has been sought from domain experts to ensure all factors were taken fully into account.

After consideration the internal review has found that the reply to your original Freedom of Information request was accurate. However, we can clarify once a DWP Decision Maker has made a decision as to whether or not to apply a sanction on a Work Programme participant, a copy of the decision notification is sent to the Work Programme Provider. This is sent to the Prime Providers nominated address/addresses.

In the case of Avanta, there is only one nominated address that decisions are sent to (the Prime Provider), therefore DWP do not pass details of the sanctions imposed directly to the Avanta sub-contractors.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central 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.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)