

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: 242

25 November 2011

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your two emails received following the response to your Freedom of Information request of 20 October 2011. You state:

This response also contains the statement "Any views expressed by the sender of this message are not necessarily those of the Department for Work and Pensions."

You state that this text is part of a standard automatic addition to all outgoing email messages from the Department for Work and Pensions. That the DWP is happy to attach a false statement to all outgoing messages, be they official responses to FOI request or otherwise, is not a reason to continue making these false statements, no more does it in any way justify the practice.

I would like a credible statement of why you are attempting to mislead me and a statement of whether your latest response to this lawful request is the view of the DWP or merely the personal view of the member of staff who has condescended to reply, as the text implies.

I am satisfied that our reply answered the point you raised above. Namely, that 'the text you refer to is part of a standard automatic addition to all outgoing email messages from the Department for Work and Pensions. The Department's response to your previous request was provided in accordance with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.'

As you have now exhausted the Department's internal procedures you should now apply directly to the ICO as explained below.

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 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

Annexe A

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: VTR???

DATE

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of xxxx. You asked:

I am making this request following your unhelpful attitude to a previous request I made:

http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/forced_labour_schemesthe_un_glob#outgoing-148733

The UN Global Compact's ten principles

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheG...>

in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption enjoy universal consensus and are derived from:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour States:

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheG...>

What does Forced and Compulsory Labour mean?

Forced or compulsory labour is any work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty, and for which that person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily. Providing wages or other compensation to a worker does not necessarily indicate that the labour is not forced or compulsory. By right, labour should be freely given and employees should be free to leave in accordance with established rules.

The DWP force claimants to work for companies taking part in their Mandatory Work Activity Scheme, under threat of destitution from

the penalty of withdrawing benefits if they fail to comply. I would like to request the DWP policy and any guidance etc which justifies encouraging the companies taking part in this scheme, and all other companies which take part in the governments compulsory labour schemes, to ignore the UN Global Compact's ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

Also would you please supply a statement of whether the DWP and the government adhere to the UN Global Compact's ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

Please bear in mind that however pedantic the DWP attempt to be in avoiding their responsibilities to provide public information I am in no hurry whatsoever. I will pursue my attempt's to gain access to public information despite the attempts to hinder that access which you are confident to publish on this website.

The Department does not hold the information you have requested, and you should note that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) only applies to information held by the Department on the date of the request. It does not require us to create information.

Also, the FOI Act is not a complaints mechanism and does not require us to undertake new work to create information or deal with a complaint. If you are taking part in Mandatory Work Activity and wish to make a complaint regarding your provider, you should, in the first instance, raise the complaint with the provider. If your complaint cannot be resolved through this route, you can complain directly to the Independent Case Examiner.

Mandatory Work Activity is a scheme designed to assist claimants to obtain and retain employment. We do not accept that a requirement to undertake work activity as a condition of the continued receipt of benefits means that such activity is "forced or compulsory labour". 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 xx@xxx.xxx.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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