

To:
request-334510-74427246@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: IR260

12 August 2016

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your email requesting a review of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) handling of your Fol request reference 1845 received by the Department on 13 May 2016 which asked:

"How many staff employed by Maximus UK hold medical qualifications in Neurology that are registered with the GMC?

How many doctors employed by Maximus UK are Muslims?

How many doctors employed by Maximus UK are Christian?

How many doctors employed by Maximus UK are neither Muslim nor Christian?

How many doctors does Maximus UK employ in the UK only?

Are doctors employed by Maximus UK told to assess, examine and make reports about patients for conditions that those doctors do not have a qualification in. In other words does Maximus UK find it acceptable to allow doctors trained in Paediatrics to assess brain injuries? How many times since being contracted by the UK government has Maximus UK told their doctors to assess patients for conditions that the doctors is not qualified to assess."

Our response to that request was issued to you on 6 July 2016 and in that response we advised the following:

"On this occasion the Department will not be processing your response further. This is because your request does not comply with Section 8(1)(b) of the FOI Act. This means that to comply with your request the department requires that you give your real name. The Information Commissioner (ICO) has issued guidance for public authorities on this topic. The ICO considers that "the name of the applicant refers to the real name of the applicant. You can see the guidance issued by the ICO here:

http://ico.org.uk/for_organisations/guidance_index/~/_media/documents/library/Freedom_of_Information/Research_and_reports/recognising-a-request-made-under-the-foia.pdf If you would like to submit your request again using a name that satisfies the above requirement DWP will be pleased to consider it. If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above".

In your IR you have now asked:

"By Law the DWP should have already given me the answers that I require. Please can you explain why you have not been able to work within the law and give me the answers to my questions as you are required to in law. It seems that government offices can flout the law when they deem it necessary but the rest of us face consequences if we break the law. I am

requesting an internal review of your procedures because they are clearly inadequate and unworkable.

Please review your procedures in accordance with the rules and the law that is applied in this Country. You will be reported to the Information Commissioner should there be any further breaches of my rights."

Please be assured that your request has been given our full consideration and that all aspects of your review were taken fully into account.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed and that I was unconnected with the handling of your original request.

The Freedom of Information Act allows 20 working days from date of receipt of the request in which to respond. We endeavour to answer promptly and no later than the 20 day deadline, unless the deadline is extended to consider if an exemption applies.

The 20 working day deadline for your request was 13 June 2016. In this instance, the Department failed to respond within the 20 working days and I apologise for the delay.

In reviewing your request I uphold your complaint as the Department failed to respond to your request within 20 days.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745