

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2020/07330

17 March 2020

Dear A.J. Wilson,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 18 February. You asked:

On February 5th 2020, "Gingerbread" reported on their social media that they had held a meeting with Baroness Stedman-Scott in relation to the Child Maintenance Service.

In relation to this meeting please provide the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- All communication between Baroness Stedman-Scott and Gingerbread since she was handed responsibility for the Child Maintenance Service to date.

- Any notes or handouts taken at or provided at the meeting on February 5th 2020.

DWP Response:

I can confirm that we hold some information falling within the description specified in your request.

With regard to your first point there have been two other meeting with Gingerbread in addition to the meeting on 5 February 2020.

Baroness Stedman-Scott had a telephone call with Gingerbread Chief Executive Officer Victoria Benson on 11 September 2019 and attached are the written notes of that call.

The Baroness then had a meeting with Victoria Benson on 28 October 2019. Following a search of our electronic and paper records, I can confirm that the Department does not hold any documents or notes relating to this meeting.

In relation to the second part of your request, the briefing document which was written by Gingerbread has been attached. Please note that the Personal Information of certain Gingerbread employees and members of the public have been redacted. I am unable to provide you with all the information requested as it constitutes personal data of someone other than yourself and as such, it is being withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the FOIA.

Section 40(2) exempts information in response to a request if it is personal data belonging to

an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation. In this case the condition contained in section 40(3A)(a) applies - that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, specifically that "Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner...".

We do not consider that disclosing this information is necessary or justified in order to satisfy your information request and the requirements of the FOIA. In relation to this request, we consider that there is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Personal data are subject to GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

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@dwp.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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745