

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 2941

6/8/15

Dear Mr Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 9/7/15. You asked:

In your response to FOI 2610 on digital CBT

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/277163/response/676924/attach/html/3/FOI%202610%20Response%20Letter.pdf.html>

you mention the DWP is "currently engaged in the supplier/market consultation exercise. " Please disclose a copy of the "consultation exercise" information/documentation that you hold or have sent to or developed for the "supplier/market" [potential suppliers] and copies of any responses you have otgether with names of the those you have contacted/engaged in this consultation and names of those who have responded.

Please also disclose the names of organisations, stakeholders and potential suppliers who you have held meetings with on this matter and dates of past and future meetings planned and details of who attended past meetings and the locations of such past and future meetings.

We have held one consultation exercise with the market on this issue. Organisations attending this consultation exercise were as follows:

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust
Lighten Up
Ieso Digital Health Ltd
Imperial Consultants
OHAssist
Big White Wall
Connect Assist
Healthman Ltd
Right Management Workplace Wellness
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
PPDG
Remploy
Efficacy
Mayden

I can confirm that the other information you seek is held by the Department. However it engages an exemption from disclosure because it relates to the formulation or development of government policy – section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act .This exemption protects the private space within which Ministers and their policy advisers can develop policies without the risk of premature disclosure.

As required by the Act, I have also assessed the public interest for against disclosure. There is a public interest in greater transparency which makes government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust. There is also a public interest in being able to assess the quality of advice being given to ministers and subsequent decision making.

However, good government depends on good decision-making and this needs to be based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure. If this public interest cannot be protected there is a risk that decision-making will become poorer and will be recorded inadequately.

On balance, DWP is satisfied that in this instance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Therefore, the information you seek will not be released.

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