

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/29893

23 August 2019

Dear Frank Zola,

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

Since May 2010 how many grants has the DWP awarded under Section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973, which did not involve any open public public service contracts/tenders? Who did these grants get made to, for what purpose and how much £ was awarded for each?

One example of a grant that did not include any contract tenders was the £51 million given to: 'Citizens Advice to provide support to Universal Credit claimants The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will fund Citizens Advice to provide Universal Support from April 2019, the government has announced.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/citizens-advice-to-provide-support-to-universal-credit-claimants>

With regards this £51 million fund example, what process and procedures did the DWP require Citizens Advice (CA) to undertake before the grant was awarded? Was it CA who first approached the DWP to fund a Universal Support (US) project or did the DWP approach CA on an unsolicited basis to provide this CA US? Which other organisations did the DWP approach, beside CA, to deliver the £51 million US project outlined in the grants:

CA <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/523307/response/1413447/attach/html/3/Final%20HTC%20GA%20CA%20red.pdf.html>

CA Scotland

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/523307/response/1413447/attach/html/4/Final%20HTC%20GA%20CAS%20red.pdf.html>

DWP Response:

I confirm that we do not hold the recorded information to respond to your request.

It may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

In cases where a customer does ask a question, rather than request recorded information, we do our utmost to provide the recorded information that best answers the question. Once the public authority has provided the recorded information, it has met its obligations under the Act; interpretation of the information provided is left to the requestor.

The press release at the link below provides an explanation of the partnership with Citizens Advice and the related funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/citizens-advice-to-provide-support-to-universal-credit-claimants>

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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 FoI 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