



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
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[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: IR2022/50613

20 July 2022

Dear John Slater,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 28th June. You wrote:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions' handling of my FOI request 'Redacted UC Programme Board Papers - Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr 2020'.

I do not agree with the arguments provided by the DWP to justify its reliance on the various exemptions. Given the age of the information the claims that it remains current & disclose is likely to result in prejudice is not credible."

## **DWP Response**

In response to your internal review request, we can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed by someone unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result of this review, we are satisfied that the original response was handled properly and that the outcome of your original request was correct. Your complaint is therefore not upheld and the reason for this is as follows

The rationale for applying exemptions to the four separate areas of the Universal Credit Programme Board papers redacted were set out in some detail in the response to your request. The relevant exemptions are clearly stated, and the public interest test has been weighed in each case.

You suggest that the age of the information undermines the argument that disclosure would cause prejudice. You are correct to point out that it is in the public interest that much of the information discussed at the Universal Credit Programme Board should be released once the issues at stake are settled and the information is historic. This is indeed why most of the papers from November 2019 to April 2020 were published in April 2022.

DWP reserves the right to withhold limited material where there is: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, ongoing policy development, prejudice to commercial interests and prevention of crime, where this is in the public interest.

Having considered the relevant exemptions and revisited the public interest arguments we consider that withholding the selected material remains in the public interest.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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### **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 decide 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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.