



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: IR2023/43357

16 June 2023

Dear David James,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) internal review request received on 6 June. relating to FOI2023/36113. You wrote:

“Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Referred to the Restart Scheme'.

you put most of my request in one, please answer them separately I need the documents for court

DWP Response

In response to your request for an internal review, 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 appropriately, and that the outcome of your original request was correct. Your complaint is therefore not upheld and the reason for this is as follows:

DWP received the following requests from you:

Fol 36113 and 36255 - received 11 May 2023
Fol 36344 - received 12 May 2023
Fol 36861, 36863 and 36866 - received 13 May 2023

DWP had two options to consider in response to your requests. We could have considered our response to your first Fol request received (36113). Under Section 14(2) of the Fol Act, we would then have reviewed whether your further requests were identical or substantially similar and would have rejected them, as this was the case.

We combined your requests, as the FoI Act allows public authorities to aggregate requests from the same person that are asking for the same or similar information, and that are received within 60 working days. Your six requests all related to participation on the Restart Scheme, and therefore aggregation was appropriate.

Therefore, DWP considers aggregating your requests was the most appropriate way to provide you with a comprehensive response.

It should be noted that the FoI Act provides a legal right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP, subject to certain exemptions that may apply. The Act does not oblige a public authority generate answers to questions. Subsequently, DWP would provide you with the recorded information that we hold that best answers the question.

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

Yours sincerely,
Central FoI Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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.

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