

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 3187 + IR 455 + IR 468

Date: 13 November 2018

Dear Chris Cooke,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 15 July 2018 and your Internal Review requests received on 3 September and 23 September. We apologise for the delay in responding.

An internal review has been carried out by someone of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your original request. I am now in a position to respond to you.

On 15 July 2018 you said:

1. *Can you prove me a list of Guidelines and rules used concerning universal credit for the following criteria.*

Pilot Areas

Live Areas

Full Service Areas

These will be for the Full / Part time employed and Self Employed and for people on various types of benefits effected by UC.

2. *Also can you provide the guidelines for the targeting of pilot areas and how pilot areas are chosen as well as a list of currently active pilot areas via postcode.*

There are no pilot areas for Universal Credit because the service is being fully rolled out. However, it may be helpful to explain that Universal Credit pilot areas were selected based on a number of factors, and there is no specific guidance for choosing those areas.

3. *And finally can you confirm if a person is currently on Legacy benefits such as Working Tax and housing benefit, would a swap to UC on housing benefit also trigger a swap to UC on Working Tax?*

DWP Response

1. I can confirm that the Department holds this information. However, the information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

However, to be helpful you can find Universal Credit guidance in the House of Commons Library at:

https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?fd=2018-04-02&td=2018-08-23&search_term=Department+for+Work+and+Pensions&itemId=119004#toggle-759

Please search the page for “DEP2018-0759” and click “Show all files”.

2. It may also be helpful to explain that the Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

3. It is worth noting that the events that can trigger a change of circumstances depend on many factors. They are similar to the circumstances that would trigger a new claim to existing benefits or tax credits.

In your review request on 3 Sep 2018 you said:

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

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 'Rules used for Live, Full and Pilot areas for people who are Employed and Self Employed'.

This request is now long overdue and even after an extra grace period where I asked for an update has not been answered.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/rules_used_for_live_full_and_pil

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Chris Cooke

DWP Response

We apologise and acknowledge in this instance we have not met our obligation as required under section 10 (1) Freedom of Information Act and did not provide a response within 20 working days and therefore uphold your review request.

In your review request on 23 Sep 2018 you said:

Dear DWP freedom-of-information-requests,

I can see I should of received a response by the 13th August however I can also see a delay. Can I have some clarification into what the delay is and when approximately I shall receive a response by,

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Chris Cooke

DWP Response

Again we apologise and acknowledge in this instance we have not met our obligation as required under section 10 (1) Freedom of Information Act and did not provide a response within 20 working days and therefore uphold your review request.

Please accept my sincerest apologies for the delay in responding to your original Freedom of Information request and your subsequent requests for Internal Review.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Policy Group Fol Team

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
www.ico.gov.uk