



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
Caxton House
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London
SW1H 9NA

John Brace
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[freedom-of-information-
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

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

Our Ref: FOI2022/45826

8 July 2022

Dear John Brace,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 11 June. You wrote:

"I would like to know the total running costs for the following building/premises you run which is at JobCentre Plus, 52 Arrowe Park Rd, Birkenhead, Wirral CH49 0UE in the period 1st February 2022 to 30th April 2022.

I would like these split by month (February 2022, March 2022 and April 2022) and category of expenditure, so for example (these are just a hypothetical example for February 2022 - some of these costs might be £NIL):-

February 2022

Staffing costs (20 FTE): £73,200

Business rates (Wirral Council): £4,500

Electricity: £800

Gas: £400

Office Supplies: £700

Water: £200

Rent: £2000

Total: £81,800

I'd then like you to provide (just for February 2022) either electronic scans of (whatever is applicable to the expenditure): receipts, invoices or some proof you've made that payment.

If any expenditure amounts in what you supply are estimates, rather than actual expenditure incurred then please could you make estimates clear with an asterisk ("*").

I remind you of your duty to provide advice and assistance to those making requests."

DWP Response

We can confirm that we are unable to provide the data requested:

We can confirm that we hold some of the information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 12 of the FoI Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further. The reason being the information you requested isn't available in the format suggested. Staffing costs aren't centrally reported in the way you have requested. We do not measure our staffing cost per site therefore this would have to be calculated. Furthermore, financial information for the month of April 2022 is unaudited and therefore cannot be shared externally at this time. Invoices and receipts cannot be shared under section 43 of the FOI act due to their commercial sensitivity.

Under Section 16 of the FoI Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit.

We feel that you should narrow your request to estate costs limited to electricity, gas, water, rent and rates. Narrowing the timescale of the request could also help bring the response under cost. For the staffing element of your request we suggest narrowing it to a certain benefit type or to the wider group level. This may help us provide the information.

We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit as each FoI request is judged on its own merits.

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

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, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, 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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/foi/) or telephone 0303 123 1113.