

**Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team**

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.gov.uk

Our reference: IR71

Date: 5 May 2015

Dear Mr Harris,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) review request, which we received on 9 February 2015. This is a review of FOI107.

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. I am now in a position to respond to you.

You have asked us:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Sanctions as a last resort'.

Unfortunately the information you have sent me is not what I requested.

"Last Resort" is defined by Oxford Dictionaries as "A final course of action, used only when all else has failed" <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/last-resort>

*You have provided *outline* information about setting requirements, decision making processes, etc. I am already familiar with detail of all that so far as it is accessible to the public but I can't find the information that says that sanctions are final course of action, used only when all else has failed with a claimant. It is that information I'm requesting. Thank you :-)*

I am content that your original request was dealt with in accordance with DWP guidelines for FOI requests.

The evidence you are seeking is held in the process itself and the explanation offered in the previous reply demonstrated the steps taken before a sanction is applied.

However, I attached three overviews of the decision making process which may provide you with additional information. Additionally, further guidance for Decision Makers can be found on the internet by typing 'Decision Makers Guide' into a search engine. Chapter 34 covers sanctions.

I hope this is helpful but if you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

DWP Central 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