

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/21155

25 June 2019

Dear Olivia,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received on 6 June. Your request has been passed to me for response as Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Freedom of Information Officer. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act gives you the right to access recorded information held by public sector organisations. While that would include information held by private companies delivering a service on their behalf, it only applies to information held on behalf of the public authority and not to information they hold solely in their own right. It also remains the obligation of the public authority to answer any request rather than the contractor. You asked:

Would it be possible for you to release information surrounding the members of staff at the job centre Epsom, specifically the occupational therapist.

DWP Response:

On this occasion the department will not be processing your response further. This is because your request does not comply with Section 8(1)(b) of the FOI Act. This means that to comply with your request the department requires that you give your real name.

The Information Commissioner (ICO) has issued guidance for public authorities on this topic. The ICO considers that "the name of the applicant refers to the real name of the applicant. You can see the guidance issued by the ICO here:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1164/recognising-a-request-made-under-the-foia.pdf>

If you would like to submit your request again using a name that satisfies the above requirement the department will be pleased to consider it.

You can find further information relating to making a FOI request via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FOI Team

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@dwf.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745