



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
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request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: IR2022/99820

16 January 2023

Dear David Smith,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 13th December. You wrote:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Tax payers money'.

I have asked for information that covers a period of two months. The number of vacancies placed on civil service jobs by DWP is in single digits. Your HR department would keep records of vacancies placed and something confirming all the actions required by the person placing the job has been taken before advertising. This would be captured and held centrally.

If you still feel the FOI requests exceeds the cost limit. Then please let me know how many vacancies were advised over the requested period.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/tax_payers_money_2"

DWP Response

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

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 as explained in your FOI request number FOI2022/90353.

As explained in your previous request (FOI2022/90353), 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.

We provided advice under Section 16 of the FoI Act to help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit as follows:

We can provide a general overview containing:

1. Overall numbers of SEO posts advertised during the specified period
2. Overall numbers of unassigned SEOs during the specified period and numbers Redeployed.

Below we have provided relevant information relating to the departments policy and procedures which we hope you will find helpful.

The Department does not use the terminology 'surplus'. Colleagues whose role or location is coming to an end but where we expect to be able to redeploy them are 'unassigned'.

Redeployment is a priority and DWP has internal processes in place to ensure that unassigned colleagues requiring redeployment are considered prior to launching formal recruitment campaigns. We also have robust recruitment governance to ensure that all recruitment is business critical, affordable and value for money for the department.

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 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](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.