



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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

Our Ref: IR2021/19404

01 April 2021

Dear Charles Ellinson,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 6th March. You wrote:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Universal Credit In Work Progression Trial'.

My request was turned down, with s.35(1)(a) of the FOI Act cited as the reason.

Although I accept there may be some documents included in my request which engage that exemption, I find it difficult to believe that nothing at all could be released, at the least in redacted form.

For example, documents and information from 2-3 years ago are included in my request (which requested information relating to the "extensions", not simply the latest extension). I find it difficult to believe such information engages the cited exemption."

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.

This is a developing policy area, as stated in the original response, and any communications that have occurred up to this point cannot be shared yet because of the need to for the officials and ministers to have open and unbiased discussions as the policy area is developed.

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

Yours sincerely,

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.

Web: [ICO Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745