



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information
Team
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John Slater

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freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

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

Our Ref: IR2020/81450

Date: 20 January 2021

Dear John Slater,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received on 18th December 2020.
You wrote:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Universal Credit - IPA & External Reports'.

RF11

Given the age of the information requested I suggest it stretches credibility that section 31(1)(a) can still be relied upon to refuse disclosure. If it is the case that disclosure of information, that is between 2 and 4 years of age, would prejudice prevention of crime then I suggest that the public are entitled to draw the conclusion that the UC IT system is not as secure as portrayed by the DWP. Perhaps this explains why UC fraud rates are so high."

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 reviewed the application of section 31(1)(a) in relation to the IT security reviews you are requesting. Having discussed the relevant threats with DWP security professionals, we are satisfied that the content of these documents still presents an ongoing security risk and that therefore section 31(1)(a) has been correctly applied.

The public interest test needs to be considered in relation to section 31(1)(a) exemptions. A public interest test was undertaken as part of the original response. I am satisfied that the arguments set out are reasonable and I am persuaded that the public interest is best served by withholding the requested documents.

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.

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