

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: IR 453

DATE: 12th October 2017

Dear Mr Slater,

Thank you for your Internal Review request received on 14 September 2017.

An internal review has been carried out by someone of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your original request. I am now in a position to respond to you. In your review request you said:

You are writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pension's handling of the FOI request 'Universal Credit Programme Board Meetings - Information Packs.', and that the final response to your request for information was not made within 40 working days, quoting section 10 (3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

In response to your request, I 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 I can advise that I find the original decision to be upheld. Your request for review is therefore not upheld. The reasoning behind this decision is as follows:

The original request, relating for information to Universal Credit Programme Board Meetings, was made due to the applicant's dissatisfaction that DWP had requested an extension to the 40 day limit to consider release of the information. The decision was made, quoting section 10(3) of the FOI Act, and the balance of public interest in relation to the information. DWP stated that it hoped to have a response by 12 October 2017.

It is reasonable for DWP, in such circumstances, to give due consideration to any request and following a review of the decision I find it reasonable that DWP hope to have a response by 12 October. There is no evidence that the delay will cause any hardship or prejudice the information.

Therefore the original decision is upheld.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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