

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: IR 448

Date: 23 October 2018

Dear Mr Slater,

Thank you for your Internal Review request received on 23 August 2018. 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:

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

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

Thank you for your remarkably rapid response.

Based on the Department's previous responses and evidence given by its own Tribunal witnesses I am unable to agree that my request exceeds the statutory cost limits.

By their very nature risks and issues must be readily available and accessible or they become useless to the programme. It would also be normal to hold dependencies and assumptions in a similar fashion to risks and issues. By citing S.12 one can only conclude that the Department doesn't hold the risks, issues, assumptions and dependencies for UC in a format that allows them to be of any use to the programme team.

In order to cite S.12 the Department must have completed a written estimate. Please disclose that estimate along with the date it was created.

I also contend that the Department has manifestly failed in its S.16 obligations. Each request for information must be considered on its own merits. Therefore claiming a massively late response (that still hasn't actually been issued) for a much earlier request, covering different information, satisfies its S.16 obligations is flawed. The Department must explain what could be done in respect of the current request to bring within the statutory cost limits. Any reasonable person would conclude that this might include reducing the scope. This might be omitting some of the 4 component parts of the request.

I look forward to the Department's equally rapid response to this IRR.

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 partially correct. Your request for review is therefore upheld in part. The reasoning behind this decision is as follows:

You stated that in order to cite s.12 of the Freedom of Information (Fol) Act the Department must have completed an estimate. I enclose the estimate as requested which is dated 3rd August 2018.

You also contended that the Department had failed in its s.16 obligations. I agree that it would have been more helpful to offer a suggestion to help you narrow your request.

In order to narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit I suggest that for RFI2, RFI3 and RFI4 in Fol 3360 a shorter time period is requested.

The Department will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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