

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our reference: IR329 (iro: VTR2644)

Date: 26 August 2016

Dear Mr Collins

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 29 July 2016.

You asked:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request "'Update" search criteria highlighted'.

DWP response:

We have reviewed our response, VTR2644, to you and can confirm that our decision to withhold the information under Section 12 (Costs) of the FOI Act was correct. We have reached this decision because in order to fulfil your request the Department would be required to examine in excess of 20,000 records to determine whether the information was held, locate that information and to retrieve and extract that information. The appropriate limit for Central Government cost calculations is £600. This is charged at a rate of £25 per hour. This equates to a time value of 24 hours.

Taking the number of records involved and time allowed into account the Department estimates that it would have approximately 4 seconds per record to: determine whether the information was held, locate that information, retrieve and extract that information. The Department does not believe it is feasible, within the prescribed limits, to provide the information sought in FOI. See Annex 1 for how we calculated this.

The Department correctly complied with Section 16 of the FOI Act in suggesting ways in which you could limit your request so that it would fall within the cost limit. We note that you have taken advantage of this by making a new request to which we responded on 23 August (VTR2824).

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

Annex 1

Working:

Records involved = 20,525

Time allowed = 24 hours or 1440 minutes

1440 minutes divided by 20,525 records = 0.07 minutes per record

$60 \times 0.07 = 4.2$ seconds