

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI 2902 and 2903

5/8/15

Dear Mr May-Bowles,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on 8 July. You asked (2902):

*"On 1 July 2001, The Right Honourable Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for work and pensions, told the House "We consulted widely over a number of years during the last years of the previous Government." in regards to child poverty measures and repealing elements of the Child Poverty Act 2010. I write to request the following:*

- 1.) What consultations were made, on what dates and with which institutions (e.g. the Office for National Statistics, any children's charities, relevant NGOs or QUANGOs) between 1 January 2015 and 1 July 2015 inclusive regarding the changes the Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith announced on July 1 2015?*
- 2.) What Response was received from those institutions in reply to those consultations made between 1 January 2015 and 1 July 2015?*
- 3.) What consultations were made, on what dates and with which institutions (e.g. the Office for National Statistics, any children's charities, relevant NGOs or QUANGOs) between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2015 inclusive regarding the changes the Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith announced on July 1 2015?*
- 4.) What Response was received from those institutions in reply to those consultations made between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2015?"*

And (2903):

*"I am writing to request the following:*

- 1.) Any memoranda, emails or minutes of meetings used to decide which authorities or institutions should be consulted regarding proposed changes to the Child Poverty Act 2010 announced in the House of Commons on 1 July 2015 by the Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith between 1 January 2015 and 1 July 2015 inclusive.*
- 2.) Any memoranda, emails or minutes of meetings used to decide which authorities or institutions should be consulted regarding proposed changes to the Child Poverty Act 2010 announced in the House of Commons on 1 July 2015 by the Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2015 inclusive.*
- 3.) Any memoranda, emails or minutes of meetings used to decide which authorities or institutions should be consulted regarding proposed changes to the Child Poverty Act 2010 announced in the House of Commons on 1 July 2015 by the Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith between 1 January 2013 and 1 January 2014 inclusive."*

In response to request 2902, there were no relevant consultations during the specified period (1 January 2014 to 1 July 2015). However, the Government ran two consultations on child poverty in this time:

- *The Consultation on setting the 2020 persistent child poverty target*, which ran from 26 June 2014 to 14 August 2014; and
- *The Consultation on the Child poverty strategy 2014-17*, which ran from 27 February 2014 to 22 May 2014.

Neither of these consultations directly related to the changes announced on 1 July by the Secretary of State.

Outside of this time period, the Coalition Government consulted on the introduction of new child poverty measures in *Measuring child poverty: a consultation on better measures of child poverty*, which ran 15 November 2012 to 15 February 2013.

The Secretary of State referred to this consultation in his comment in the House on 1 July - "We consulted widely over a number of years during the last years of the previous Government". During the consultation Government engaged with over 400 individuals (including 89 children and young people) at 17 events in nine cities across the UK. For further details see the summary of their responses, published in Annex E of the *Consultation on the Child poverty strategy 2014-17*, found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/302911/35696\\_Cm\\_8782\\_accessible.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/302911/35696_Cm_8782_accessible.pdf)

Additionally, the Government publicly set out its wish to bring forward better measures of child poverty in its May 2015 election Manifesto, available here: <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/manifesto2015/ConservativeManifesto2015.pdf>

I can confirm that we hold the information falling within the description specified in your request for Fol 2903. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)