

Dear Mr Atrill,

Thank you for your email requesting a review of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) handling of your previous Freedom of Information request.

In this request you specifically stated that;

*I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pension's handling of my FOI request 'Work Programme Isle of Wight'.*

*Firstly could you please clarify the exact companies operating on the Isle of Wight who you state have 'volunteered to work with A4e to provide work experience opportunities to Work Programme Customers?'*

*I am sure that the people of the Isle of Wight would have no wish to inadvertently boycott a company who wasn't leeching off the misfortune of unemployed people, exploited and forced to work for no wage under the threat of destitution due to the DWP withdrawing their benefits if they refused to engage in forced labour in order to continue receiving them.*

*Firstly you state: All Aspects Cleaning, would this be All Aspects Cleaning, Ford Mill House, East Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1JB, telephone 01983 530 035*

*Secondly you state: Stonehaven Residential Home. Would this be Stonehaven Residential Home, 23 Carter Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8DG telephone 01983 402213*

*Thirdly you state: AB News, would this be AB News 96 High Street Ryde Isle of Wight PO33 2SZ, telephone 01983 563 562*

*Fourthly you state: Poundland, would this be 104 High Street, Newport, Isle Of Wight, PO30 1TL, telephone 01983 529 627*

*Finally you state BetaPak, would this be Betapak Ltd Isle of Wight, Rookley Industrial Park, Pritchett's Way, Rookley, Isle of Wight, telephone 01983 721100*

*Also I actually requested a list of the businesses, organisations, charities etc taking part in the Work Programme. You have only supplied a handful of what you refer to as 'companies'.*

*Please supply all the information I have requested including from Maximus, who you state 'do not operate a list of organisations signed up to provide work placements; instead they set up placements as required on an individual basis' Therefore please supply the list of all the organisations where Maximus have set up placements. I have already clearly requested this information and it should not be necessary to further prompt you to supply it in accordance with your responsibilities under the FOI act.*

*Finally, it may not be in the DWPs interest to disclose the information requested: The number of people on the Isle of Wight that have been required to take part in Mandatory Work Activity and the number that have had benefits sanctioned for subsequently refusing to take part or for*

*failing to comply with the requirements of the Work Programme. But it certainly is in the public's interest given that unemployment has just today been announced to be running at 8.1%, with youth unemployment standing at over 1 million, whilst the Prime minister regularly cites the Work Programme as a key aspect of the government's strategy for tackling unemployment, particularly youth unemployment.*

*Further it is very much in the public interest given that Job-centres were caught red handed setting targets to sanction*

*claimants, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/01/jobcentres-tricking-people-benefit-sanctions> A practice vehemently denied by the DWP and Ministers, until concrete evidence was produced proving it to be true, when it was claimed to have been a "misunderstanding".*

I maintain that you have been provided with the information that you requested in your original request. Furthermore, whilst the Department is open about the companies involved with its Work Programme providers you have stated in your request that these companies need to be further identified to allow for a boycott. This could harm them and their commercial interest. To undermine the process is not only vexatious in nature but could also harm unemployed people who find this to be a useful stepping stone. Work Experience gives unemployed people the opportunity to be placed with local businesses where they are able to gain valuable work experience, improve their CVs and marketability to potential employers

With the new information you have provided I consider that grounds now exist to show that your original request was also vexatious in nature, therefore under section 14(2) of the Freedom of Information Act we will not be providing you with the further information you have requested.

To be a vexatious request the Information Commissioners guidance notes state that we should consider, amongst other things, whether the request:

- would cause significant costs to DWP in replying,
- is designed to cause disruption or annoyance, and
- Lacks any serious purpose or value
- is harassing DWP or causing distress to staff,

As your request suggests boycotting companies that have volunteered to provide work experience opportunities I consider that it meets the above criteria and therefore is vexatious in nature.

You have now exhausted the Departmental internal review process; if you are not content with the outcome, the next step is for you to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. 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)

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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