



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
Caxton House
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London
SW1H 9NA

Finn Keaney
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[freedom-of-information-
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2023/50432

27 July 2023

Dear Finn Keaney,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 29 June. You wrote:

“In April 2020 I requested information from you around the Universal Credit uplift and the decision not to extend that to Legacy Benefits. You assigned this request reference number FOI2020/19088.

You have now released this information.

In an internal DWP email dated 26 March 2020 10:59 (which you released as page 23 of Additional material 4.pdf) it is noted by one colleague that

“DWP are likely to come under pressure to increase amounts of payments to those outside of the UC catchment [...] Therefore I just wanted to inform you of a piece of work we’ve kicked off with Digital Colleagues to look at what options are there to make emergency payments quickly and efficiently to customers not receiving UC – for example using existing legacy systems or if regular payments are not viable could we explore a single one off payment”

I would like today to request any information you hold on that item of work undertaken with Digital Colleagues.

This might be for instance Equality Impact Assessments, email chains, internal memos, draft regulations, minutes of meetings, essentially any information you hold relating to this item of work.”

DWP Response

We can confirm that we may hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending at least 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 12(1) of the FoI Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further. The reason being is that your request

would involve high levels of manual extracting of documents that would be held across systems and user accounts.

Under Section 16 of the FoI Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit.

To narrow your request, we suggest:

- The types of information are very broad, as you are asking for
 - Equality Impact Assessments,
 - email chains,
 - internal memos,
 - draft regulations,
 - minutes of meetings,
 - essentially any information you hold relating to this item of work

- so you should limit your request to perhaps more specific documents or pieces of information. For example, you could narrow your request to focus, on specific areas or topics of engagement between the colleagues you have mentioned.
- Instead of just referring to minutes of meetings you could limit this to specific meetings within Digital Group that discussed this topic
- We would also suggest you remove the following as this is not specific enough to enable searches to be completed within the costs limits
 - essentially any information you hold relating to this item of work

We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit as each FoI request is judged on its own merits. There may also be other exemptions that could apply.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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-reqxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.