



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
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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: FOI2023/59950

2 October

Dear Finn Keaney,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 3 August. You wrote:

“Thank you for your reply. Please accept the below reduction in the scope of my original request.

Please provide me the below information as it relates to the item of work outlined in my initial request :

- the names of any teams or departments involved in this piece of work
- minutes of any meetings attended or held by Digital Colleagues discussing this item of work
- any Equality Impact Assessments undertaken as part of this item of work
- the findings as they were at the point of being issued to whoever Digital Colleagues reported to on this item of work”

DWP Response

We previously wrote to you on 4 September, extending the deadline of your request as we still need to consider the Public Interest Test, as per Section 10(3) of the FOI Act.

We believed at that time, that we held information relating to your request and that we needed to withhold some of that detail under a Section 31(1)(a) exemption of the FOI Act, as the information relates to Law Enforcement.

The information that we had located was based on your request and linking back to your previous request FOI2023/50432, relating to an email sent on 26 March 2020 at 10:59, that was supplied to you earlier this year in “Additional material 4.pdf”, part of the overall conclusion to FOI2020/19088.

Based on the content of that email, from 26 March 2020, we located what we thought was information in scope of this request.

However, whilst considering the Public Interest Test in relation to those documents, it has now become apparent that they relate to decisions on Ad-Hoc Payments which is different to your original request which was asking about Emergency Payments.

Once we became aware of this fact, we did another search to locate information about Emergency Payments connected to the email from 26 March 2020.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records we have concluded that no information is held in scope of this request.

Owing to the passage of time, since 26 March 2020, these records have more than likely been destroyed in accordance with Departmental records management practices in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act (DPA) principles.

We are very sorry for any confusion that has occurred and hope that you can understand how this mistake has been made.

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