



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Central FoI Team
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www.dwp.gov.uk

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

Date: 8 January 2015

Our Ref: IR460

Dear Ms Conner,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) internal review request received on 18 September 2014. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. You stated:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Workfare providers'.

I find the reason you give to be pure BS, because of the following

The DWP Head of Work Programmes Division[1] wrote a memo to Minister for Employment on 24 April 2012 which stated:

There are no "cost limits"[2] for Freedom of Information Act (FOI) requests as all of the DWP's Work Programme's Providers (employment related support services) have contractual obligations to provide information they hold on behalf of the DWP.

Memo extract:

<http://www.consent.me.uk/docs/foicosts.png>

Full memo:

<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/11...>

All DWP Employment service contractors have to hold a "framework contract":

Q40

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa...>

because of this alone I require a copy of workfare, or whatever description you want to give the providers.

To claim it is not in the public interest is a lie as the public would very much like to know who they are forced to provide a free service for!

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed by someone unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result of this review I am satisfied that the original response was handled properly and that the outcome of your request was correct. The Department did not apply the costs exemption under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) in this case.

As explained in the original response, the reasoning behind the Department's decision is that the information you seek about the names of organisations who have given placements to claimants is exempt from disclosure under sections 29(1)(a), 29(1)b, 36(2)(c) and 43(2) of the Act. The weighing of the public interest factors concerning disclosure was also explained in the original response.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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