

Freedom of Information request 1150/2011

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Information request

I would like full details of the 2011 reorganisation of DWP and its agencies including details down to staff numbers, grades & locations below deputy director level and timescales for implementation. I am particularly interested in changes to Jobcentre Plus organisation of corporate teams at National, regional & district level.

DWP response

Your request refers to two separate reorganisation exercises. The DWP Transformation programme will reorganise the Department's corporate centre to help achieve the 40 per cent real terms efficiencies on our corporate overheads agreed with HM Treasury, as outlined in Spending Review announcements in October 2010. A separate Jobcentre Plus reorganisation took place prior to the DWP Transformation programme's review.

On 14 February 2011, Jobcentre Plus moved from 48 to 37 Districts, which are organised in 7 groups: Scotland; Wales; North West England; North East England; Southern England; Central England; London & the Home Counties. These groups broadly align with the existing organisation for its Contact Centre and Benefits Centre networks and so will enable local managers to work effectively across the different parts of its service. It also means that Jobcentre Plus will be able to share support functions, remove duplication and focus its resources more on customer-facing than back-office roles. The new District structure has reduced the variation in District sizes and taken into account geographical and strategic links with local partners. Jobcentre Plus also changed the organisation of its national directorates so that there are now three: Strategy, Planning and Employers Directorate; Change and Products Directorate; and Finance Directorate; with Information Technology (IT) and Human Resources (HR) services provided corporately by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), with a lead Jobcentre Plus director; and a lead Director for Business Transformation Projects. These

changes were also introduced to remove duplication and focus resources appropriately, and to achieve better clarity about lead roles.

The effect of these changes on Jobcentre Plus staff numbers, grades and locations will be to reduce the number of people deployed on central and support services but precise details are not yet available as these will be affected by the DWP Transformation programme which has not yet completed its review.

As part of the transformation programme, the Department has announced that it will have a single Chief Operating Officer (COO) from October 2011. We expect this role to be taken up from 3 October. The current Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh, will continue in his role until October and will play a key role in the transition to the new arrangements.

You also asked for details about the department's future locations. I can confirm that DWP is putting plans in place to move towards a smaller number of regional centres for its corporate centre, and to reduce our reliance on expensive central London space. As announced in December, our first change will be a move to a single London Head Office at Caxton House, which will happen by 2013 at the latest.

The Department intends to move to its new structure from 3 October 2011 but expects that selection into some job roles will continue beyond this date.

It is not possible at this time to provide further details on staffing numbers and grades, as the review is not yet complete.