

Freedom of Information request 1415/2013

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Information request and DWP response

I would like the names and job titles/positions of all members of the senior management team at the DWP who were involved in the decision to restrict funding for retraining to the New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for Partners from the inception of the New Deal to the cancellation of the New Deal.

Clarification of your request was sought 27 March;

Unfortunately, I am unable to proceed with your request without clarification of the information you wish to receive. To help me do so, I would like to know what you mean by restricting "funding for retraining to the New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for Partners from the inception of the New Deal to the cancellation of the New Deal".

As your request currently stands, it is unlikely that we would be able to provide the names and job titles/positions of members of the senior management team at DWP who were involved in making the decisions relating to *any* policy area over a thirteen year period without exceeding the disproportionate cost limit.

The cost limit is set at £600 for central government departments and represents 3.5 working days.

To which you replied;

By restricting funding for retraining to cover the participants on the New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for Partners job groups I mean which senior civil servants within the DWP have contributed to the legislation which had prioritised all of the retraining budget on these two job groups.

Correspondence between myself and the Independent Case Examiner have discovered, along with assistance from your department, that the retraining budget was ringfenced and only allowed access to this funding for the two jobseeker groups previously mentioned..

I will accept these details to cover from 2008 onwards instead of the complete time period for when the New Deal was active.

Reply

I regret to say that any historical information you have requested regarding New Deal for Lone Parents or New Deal for Partners has long been archived and is not held centrally. We still estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds any of the information you have requested, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.