

Freedom of Information request 23/2015

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Information request

Please disclose to me via email a copy of any policy paper produced by the Behaviour Insights Team/Nudge Unit/Behaviour Insights Ltd (hereafter collectively referred to as BIT) for minister's and senior officials of the Department of Work and Pension/Jobcentre Plus (JCP) during 2014. Plus a copy of any business plan or similar for work currently being undertaken with BIT and commissioned by the DWP/JCP.

DWP response

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.

The Department does not keep a centrally collated record of which external partners or organisations different policy or deliver teams deal with as part of their day to day running of the business. In order to comply with your request we would need to ask every division in the business if they held the information you are asking for.

We 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 the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

It is possible that we may hold information falling within the description specified in your request. But to the best of our current knowledge (as of Jan 5th 2015) there are no policy papers produced by BIT. Nor, has any work been commissioned by DWP/JCP from BIT.

Under section 16 of the FOIA we are obliged to assist you in providing options to narrow your request, by reforming or refocusing it, so that it will fall beneath the cost limit. It may help if I outline some possible ways to do this by seeking information about a specific piece of work or report the Behavioural Insights team has worked on and over a specific time period. The DWP will then be happy to consider your request afresh. However, we should advise that the DWP cannot guarantee that any revised request will be within the cost limit.