

Freedom of Information request 1438/2011

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Information request

How many meetings have been held between DWP Ministers and Google executives and how many meetings have been held between DWP officials and Google executives?

DWP response

In answer to part one of your question, there have been no meetings between DWP Ministers and Google executives since May 2010.

With regards to meetings with DWP officials, this Department is large customer facing Department of over 100,000 staff who work in offices which are geographically spread across Britain. To try and identify and retrieve correspondence between any official and Google would be very time consuming and would breach the Freedom of Information cost limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for a central Government Department like DWP 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.

We estimate that the cost of complying with this part of your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. 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.

If you were to make a new request for a narrower category of information, it may be possible to comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although this is not guaranteed.