

Freedom of Information request IR16/2013

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Information request

Thank you for your email dated 4 January 2013 to review the reply to your Freedom of Information (Fol) request reference 4853. This review was conducted by an independent official of the Department, of the relevant grade and authority to carry out such requests.

I have reviewed your original request and the information that was supplied to you. You asked:

FOI 4853

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Please provide copies of all internal reports, reviews and documents which were written in the last three years which relate to the blacklisting of workers in the UK.

2. Please provide copies of all emails sent or received in 2012 by any of the department's senior executive team which contain any of the following terms: "blacklist", "blacklists", "blacklisting". NB, if parts of the emails cannot be disclosed (e.g. because of personal data, etc), please redact these specific sections of text but still nevertheless disclose the rest of each email.

If it is not possible to provide all of the information requested, I'd be grateful if you could still provide as much of it as possible.

DWP response

I apologise for the misunderstanding about your original request which led to the unsatisfactory answer you received. I have further examined your request and sought further information to ensure all factors are fully taken into account.

I have requested a thorough search on both DWP's intranet and internet sites and can confirm that we cannot discover any internal reports, reviews or

documents which were written in the last 3 years relating to the blacklisting of workers in the UK.

Your request relating to emails sent or received by members of DWP's senior executive team remains problematic. To comply with your request we estimate that to search email accounts and archives of current - and previous -executive team members who were in post during 2012 would be a very lengthy task and that the cost would still 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. 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.

I am sorry that this reply is not more helpful.