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[redacted]

Ref No: **FOI 25_014**

5th February 2025

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2024 which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") have processed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Request

1) Details of legislation which authorises the DWP to recoup money from my State Pension. The DWP referenced this legislation in their documentation presented to the First-Tier Hearing North Shields (as above). As the DWP were not specific regarding details of "legislation", on the contrary, just a casual vague reference with no substance, can you please advise what government enacted legislation are the DWP are referring to?

2) Details of how the DWP arrived at the alleged overpayment of Universal Credit and JSA totalling £17209.65? I recall, it was their third attempt. I have requested this information on a number of occasions – still waiting.

CONFIRMATION FROM GOVERNMENT LEGAL DEPARTMENT

As confirmed by Decision Notice issued by North Shields dated 14/NOV/2024, the fault regarding this alleged overpayment of £17209.65 was the fault of the DWP and not me, and that I was not involved in any criminal activity as such.

Due to this failure by the DWP, will GLD confirm to me that I will not be subject to any further financial penalty either a deduction in excess of current limits from my State Pension, or other income?

The above does not fall within the FOI legislation. I request that the GLD address this point singularly, advising me accordingly. The thought of some anonymous enthusiastic manager at the DWP in five years' time casually making life even more difficult for me would be difficult contemplate (previous correspondence and DWP Journal entries refer).

Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD informs you that it does not hold the information you have requested.

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original correspondence. Please use the contact details provided at the top of this letter in order to request an internal review relating to your original request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ICO.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

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