

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI2020/33549

28 July 2020

Dear Colin Dunn,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 1 July. You asked:

I refer to your re.

To limit costs it will satisfy my request if you can supply information as of the present time, and in the case of statistics limited to the current financial year, or the minimum period to show meaningful information, that an average person would be able to evaluation.

I trust this will not be used as a delay in answering my initial request, as the points clarified could have been answered much sooner.

To save cost electronic copies are acceptable, as I am led to believe they may be available.

[I refer to personal independent payments]

What is the basic educational or professional requirements for people carrying out medicals for P.I.P

What are the entry requirements for Decision Makers.

May I have copies of personal specifications for vacancies for both posts, and how long are new recruits trained for.

Can you send me copies of training materials, such as relevant notes used to support new staff or training manuals.

Are these posts subject to performance reviews on a regular basis.

.

How many DMs or Medical advisors been removed from post in the last 5 years.]

DWP Response:

I can confirm that we hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate

Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Under section 16 of the Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit.

We have interpreted your request for those 'removed from post' to refer to Decision Makers dismissed from DWP as well as medical advisers, known as Health Professionals (HPs), dismissed by the Assessment Providers (APs), Capita and Independent Assessment Services (IAS). HPs are employed by the Assessment Providers to undertake assessments and do not play a part in the decision making process. Instead, they provide a report to DWP's decision makers who then determine entitlement to benefit.

Because of the data structure in the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP's) Human Resource computer systems, it is not possible to identify the number of people who have been dismissed by job role. To do so in a manner that would produce meaningful information that can be evaluated would require a search of our paper files for all dismissal cases and would therefore exceed the cost threshold as specified.

We would however be able to provide data on dismissals per grade for the relevant grades but this would also include anyone in those grades who was not a Decision Maker.

We can provide person specifications for vacancies and information relating to performance reviews.

Because of the significant volume of training materials that are available for Decision Makers, you should refine your request and ask for training materials on a particular area of Decision Making.

We will consider afresh any revised request, however, we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have

exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745