

Mark Oaten MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

4 April 2007

Dear Mr Oaten,

Information Tribunal decision of 5 March 2007

As you will know the Information Tribunal upheld the Information Commissioner's decision of 5 June 2006. You sought, under the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the DWP's feasibility study on the impact of the Identity Card Scheme on its business. This comprised the completion of a series of templates provided by the Home Office for the purpose.

In its decision of 5 March 2007 the Tribunal instructed the Department to release this information to you within 30 days of their decision. Accordingly, I now attach the information. It has been redacted to remove the name of the "strategic benefit owner" and the "signature, name and job title" of the person in DWP who signed the templates at the end of the three profiles. These redactions reflect the terms of paragraph 112 of the Tribunal's decision.

Context

The information in question was produced in October 2004. It reflected estimates of the impact on DWP of the Government's proposed ID card scheme as it had been developed at that time in three areas of the Department's business. The main focus was in terms of potential benefits. At the time the estimates were prepared the working assumptions used by DWP reflected the then current state of policy development of the ID Card scheme.

Subsequently, following Royal Assent of the Identity Card Act 2006 a cross-Government review was conducted, the outcome of which was the recognition that the ID Cards scheme needed to be part of a broader identity management agenda for Government. In particular, the Identity and Passport Service is now working on use of elements of DWP's existing IT infrastructure to reduce the delivery risks of the National

Identity Card Scheme. As a result the original DWP estimates set out in the attached information, while they were the best available at the time, are no longer valid.

M.Dillon

M. Dillon
DWP FoI Team