

From: Ardis, Barry [mailto:Barry.Ardis@lancashire.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 January 2010 16:31
To: Young, Ian
Cc: SHQ - Mattinson, Keith; Lister, Diane
Subject: FW: Response to Audit Comm Query

Ian,

I have prepared a response for the Audit Commission (see below) and also spoken to Keith Mattinson and Diane Lister. I asked Diane and Keith for their comments before I sent the email but Keith suggested I ran it by yourself as well. I can see that Diane has already copied you in her response, which I will incorporate.


Have you any comments please.


Thanks


Barry

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From: Lister, Diane
Sent: 26 January 2010 16:08
To: Ardis, Barry
Cc: Young, Ian
Subject: FW: Response to Audit Comm Query

Barry

I'm ok with this apart from this sentence

We are aware that the information from the NFI website should not have been released in this way and will endeavour to ensure this is not repeated.

I don't fully understand why screen prints shouldn't be taken but perhaps your email to the NFI Team could be rephrased to say "we are aware that you do not recommend the use of screen prints for security reasons (?) and will endeavour to ensure that this practice is not repeated"

Diane

Diane Lister, Head of Pensions & Exchequer
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From: Ardis, Barry
Sent: 26 January 2010 14:44
To: Lister, Diane
Subject: Response to Audit Comm Query

Nathan,

Further to our earlier conversation here is an explanation of the events that has led to the screen print of an individual match being disclosed. We now know that the details relate to a Mr Burns and the authority is the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority (LCFA). You have confirmed that you have received a FOI request from the same person.

To clear up any confusion I am employed by Lancashire County Council (LCC) but I am the key contact for the LCFA for NFI purposes.

The LCFA commenced their own internal review of pensioners in receipt of injury benefits well before the release of the NFI results. During the course of this review, our pensions section, on behalf of the LCFA, contacted all persons concerned individually, to seek their consent to the LCFA contacting the Department for Work and Pensions to obtain their details. There were a number of individuals who refused to give their permission and Mr Burns was one of them and as a result their injury element of their ill health pension payment was suspended. 🔑

Not long after these refusals were received, the results of the NFI exercise were produced and an initial exercise identified a number of individuals who were possibly in receipt of an overpayment. Mr Burns was one of these individuals.

Following this a letter was compiled, by the Director of People & Development from the LCFA, to Mr Burns in June 2009, indicating that his name had appeared on the NFI results and asked him to confirm the accuracy of, and provide an explanation of the information contained on the NFI results. 🔑 The 'screen print from the web application' was included along with other relevant documentation, with the letter. The screen print was obtained by one of the users who has access to the NFI pensions results and this was forwarded in hard copy format to the Director of People & Development. 🔑

Since this letter was sent to Mr Burns, he has submitted a FOI request to both LCFA and LCC. Responses have been forwarded to Mr Burns on 13 and 15 January 2010 respectively. I am in receipt of copies of these letters and there is no indication in these letters that further information has been provided.

We are aware that the information from the NFI website should not have been released in this way and will endeavour to ensure this is not repeated.

Please contact me if you require further information or clarification on any of the points raised. 🔑

Best Regards

Barry

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