

Tribunal to agree with his view that whoever was responsible for agreeing the amount of benefit that he and his family could receive would be prepared to deny it to them purely because of this complaint.

Once having started the cover up it seems that the DWP felt they had to continue so with each complaint more people seem to have been dragged in and, according to Mr Hossack, more lies told. He complained to the Ombudsman and to his MP. Because the Ombudsman did not agree with him Mr Hossack felt that he was conspiring with Mr Hossack's MP, Ian Pearson. Neither of them gave him the answers that he wanted.

A new face appears on the scene at this point, Ronald Powell a solicitor working for the DWP. He asked if Mr Hossack had any idea who could have made the telephone call to Wragges and Mr Hossack told him that it was a man called Evans, an employee of the DSS who Mr Hossack considered to have been harassing him. He applied for disclosure under Section 7 of the Data Protection Act to the Data Commissioner. The Commissioner, again alleged to be biased in Mr Hossack's view, only partly granted the request that was made. He considered and considers how that everybody with whom he has been in contact has supported the DWP.

Mr Hossack next made an application for the release of information under Section 7 of the Data Protection Act against Wragge & Co and they did produce the attendance note, albeit edited, which did show that they did know to whom they had spoken. In earlier correspondence they had denied that any name had been given. Mr Hossack was heartened when after a further request under Section 7 he received amongst other things a letter dated 3 April 2002 from Barry Merrick, the Data Protection Officer at the Social Security Office in Halesowen addressed to Keith Reader. Mr Hossack thinks this letter, written only a few weeks after the original complaint probably does give the correct sequence of events. His point is that if this was known in April 2002 why did the DWP spend the best part of two years denying everything? Even in this internal letter Mr Merrick does not give the names of the persons who helped him with his enquiries. The names Daljit Virdee and Mr Evans have been written on the copy that was supplied by Mr Hossack. Mr Hossack considers that the following civil servants have acted corruptly:

- Ronald Powell, Solicitor to the DWP