

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 888

27 February 2013

Dear Derek Brown,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 25 February. You asked for:-

It has been reported that every recipient of Universal Credit will, without exception, be required to commute for up to three hours a day to work or forfeit benefit.

(1) Does this condition apply only to full-time workers (who may earn enough wages to be able to afford substantial travel costs associated with such a long commute) or ALL WORKERS, including part-time workers, who may not be able to earn enough money to be able to afford the travel costs associated with such a journey?

(2) Does this condition apply to part-time carers who do want to work locally, part-time or possibly full-time, but cannot be separated from the person (or people) that they care for for extended periods associated with full-time work at a distance, e.g., 3 hours travel + 8 hours work + 1 hour lunch break = 12 hours in toto?

(3) Will the condition apply to single parents, forcing them to abandon their children for up to twelve or more hours per day?

If this condition is strictly enforced I foresee many personal and undeserved personal catastrophes occurring as low paid people are compelled to travel further than their wages can feasibly permit, part-time carers of the sick and elderly and single parents torn from the people or children that they care with unimaginable hardship and misery developing for worthy and completely innocent minorities for no good reason.

You can expect a reply by 25 March unless I need to come back to you to clarify your request or the balance of the public interest test needs to be considered.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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@dwpgsi.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 www.ico.gov.uk