

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 2894

DATE: 14 November 2016

Dear Mr Savidge,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 7th August 2016. You asked:

Apart from attending your meetings with your advisor what is the minimum requirement of work related activity you have to do to keep your WRAG payment. I already do a bit of voluntary work but the advisors never understand or look after your mental health, they are target driven by DWP bosses.

Secondly I have a mental health disability which stops me from working due to the pressures involved. No one knows of its length. It has been for 4 years already. I totally understand at the medicals you have to make a re assessment date eg 12 months, but the DWP advisors use this date in the future to refer you to the work programme as they think you are able to do 16 hrs a week of work. I have told them several times I'm nowhere near that and have medical letters to proof this. What rights do I have? Is it ok to just do work activity like a few courses etc without being told to apply for any jobs? I am only able to do voluntary work as it has no pressures

Following a Work Capability Assessment, if a claimant has limited capability for work and is placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG), they are generally expected to take steps to prepare for work. This includes being required to attend and participate in work focused interviews and, where applicable, undertake Work-Related Activity. Delivering work-focused support to these ESA claimants ensures that they remain as close to the labour market as possible.

Support and, where appropriate, financial assistance in preparing for and returning to work for ESA claimants placed in the WRAG will be delivered by either a Jobcentre Plus work coach or a Work Programme Provider.

Where support is provided by Jobcentre Plus, the enclosed leaflet gives claimants further information on Work-Related Activity.

Where support is provided by Work Programme providers, providers will be free to design support based on the needs of the individual claimant, and target the right support at the right time.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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@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