

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2086

23 May 2013

Dear Mr Walker,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 4 May 2013. You asked for:-

In collaboration with the Cabinet Office's "Behavioural Insights Team", the DWP has been participating in trials in Loughton, Essex, and subsequently across Essex and in Teesside. In these trials, jobseekers have been given 'jobseekers' directions' instructing them to complete an online test (referred to as 'My Skills Test' or 'My Strengths Test').

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I wish to know:

- 1) How many of these directions have been given to date in any part of the country.*
- 2) Whether this trial has been/is being conducted in any other areas of the country.*

We can confirm that this response has been drafted in conjunction with the Behavioural Insights Team at the Cabinet Office who are responsible for the piloting of this tool. For any technical queries relating to this issue please contact:

Correspondence Team
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Email publiccorrespondence@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries 020 7276 1234

In answer to your request the 'My Strengths' exercise is not a mandatory one. The promotion of the use of the tool was intended to compliment a customer's jobsearch activity. This has always been voluntary and although a very small number of customers were directed to use the tool this did not result in any sanctions nor was it considered mandatory. This pilot is not being run in any other part of the country. The 'My Skills' test is a separate activity.

If you have any queries relating to this Fol request please contact us using the above reference.

Yours sincerely,

DWP | Operations

DWP Central 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, London, 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