

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI1019

02 April 2014

Dear Mr Harris,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 03 March 2014. You asked:

*These questions are about Mandatory Work Activity (MWA)*

*I am aware that in this scheme placements must be additional to existing or expected vacancies.*

*A document that used to be at*

*[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/259364/p-g-part-p.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/259364/p-g-part-p.pdf) and was mentioned in my earlier request at [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/workfare\\_should\\_not\\_replace\\_jobs](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/workfare_should_not_replace_jobs)*

*says in part:*

*“3.15 Placements must be additional to any existing or expected vacancies. You must ensure that employers are not taking advantage of MWA as a source of labour at the expense of employing workers in the open labour market.”*

*Given that it would be counterproductive if paid employees were losing their jobs or hours because of this scheme, checking that this doesn't happen would be a responsible action for you to take.*

*I would therefore be grateful if you would provide me with copies of all research intended to measure compliance with this aspect of the scheme.*

In answer it will help if we clarify that MWA is intended to help claimants move closer to the labour market, enabling them to establish the discipline and habits of working life, such as attending on time regularly, carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision while delivering a contribution to the community.

With regard to your specific request to provide copies of all research intended to measure compliance with this aspect of the scheme it is important to emphasise that MWA is not delivered directly by DWP but rather by contracted providers who source and manage MWA placements. Providers and MWA placement hosts follow strict guidelines that ensure

advantage is not taken in the use of MWA as a source of labour at the expense of employing workers in an open labour market.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

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**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](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745