

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 2302

DATE: 20 June 2017

Dear Paul Graham,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 1 June 2017. You asked:

I am more than happy to engage with your Health and Work Conversation (HWC) interview with a Work Coach but refuse to discuss my health and will not complete the HWC booklet or the my-values exercise. What sanctions apply to my refusals? What rules say I must complete the claimant led booklet or exercise?

The HWC is a claimant led conversation so claimants can decide whether they want to discuss their health. If claimants do not wish to discuss their health the work coach will tailor the discussions based on what they are comfortable discussing.

The My Values exercise is an optional exercise that claimants can complete during the HWC. The work coach will ask the claimant whether they want to complete the My Values Exercise. A sanction would not apply for not completing the My Values exercise.

Where a claimant doesn't complete the HWC booklet but participates and engages in the conversation, a failure to participate sanction will not apply.

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@dwp.gsi.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