

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: Fol 3231

Date: 11 August 2017

Dear Mr Peterson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 2 August 2017. You asked:

I am on Universal Credit, formerly Jobseeker's Allowance. I know the DWP/Jobcentre can ask UC claimants to provide evidence of job search in a particular format, example: claimant's Universal Jobmatch account, Claimant Commitment Pack 'My work plan' stencils, diary or record the claimant has kept of their activities, print-outs of jobs the claimant has applied for, letters from employers and updated CVs.

Can you provide me with any recorded information held by the DWP, which states whether UC claimants can be legally compelled by the DWP/Jobcentre to supply evidence of job search in a specific format.

I have found two replies to Fol requests on the whatdotheyknow website related to my enquiry. However, they are both in sharp contrast to each other. And neither of them provide a definitive answer, either. In your reply to Mr P Shepard, Your ref: VTR 1701, you clearly state there is no set format for claimants to provide evidence of job search. But in your reply to Mr Enderby, Your ref: Fol 3087, you refer Mr Enderby to Section 23(3) of the Welfare Reform Act 2012, which you state, in your view, provides an answer to his question(s). What you have told Mr Enderby appears to contradict what you told Mr Shepard, which I find confusing.

With all due respect to your department, I am not soliciting an opinion or point of view from the DWP. Nor am I seeking a bespoke policy response, either. To recap, I am requesting whether you can provide me with any recorded information held by the DWP stating claimants can be legally compelled by the DWP/Jobcentre to provide evidence of job search in a specific format. If your department does not hold the information I require, then I would be grateful if you would state this clearly and unequivocally.

DWP Response:

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by this Department.

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

Yours sincerely,

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, 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 or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745