

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov)

Our Ref: Fol 4723

Date: 8 January 2018

Dear M Boyce

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 6 November 2017. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying. You asked:

*'If you take a holiday while working hard and claiming Universal Credit (UC) to top-up poverty pay wages you will pay huge price.*

*Let's say you work 30 hours a week on poverty pay and claim Universal Credit to top this up. You've been working 4 months and are tired and need a holiday. You take a weeks holiday in sunny Scunthorpe. You will need to come off UC because you are not prepared to spend 7 hours a day job searching while taking a well earned break. When you then make a fresh claim you will then have to serve 7 waiting days before you are entitled to any UC. Then you will have to wait a further 5 weeks to receive any UC. This Tory Government have now made it financially impossible for the low paid to take a holiday. This is not only grossly unfair, but will damage their health.*

*Please provide all documents that show that people making a fresh claim for UC after going on holiday for a week will indeed have to serve the 7 waiting days, and then have to wait a further 5 weeks for any money.'*

### **DWP Response**

There is no document we can share as there would be no requirement for a claimant in the situation described to make a fresh claim.

To be helpful full Universal Credit guidance, that includes a section on taking holiday, is available in the House of Commons library <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/commonslibrary/>

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol 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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)