

DWP Policy Group Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2019/12445

2 April 2019

Dear Frank Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 26 March. You asked:

*RE: Universal credit: More than half of claimants have money deducted from payments  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/universal-credit-claimants-money-deducted-department-for-work-and-pensions-over-half-a8832766.html>*

*It is being reported that 50% ("53 per cent ") of universal credit claimants have deductions from UC payments, ("between 31 and 40 per cent") if a UC claimant is getting such a deduction then gets a benefit sanctions will 100% of the sanction be applied or will the sanction be less as a direct result of the deductions or will deductions be lowered before sanctions get applied?*

*Please disclose details of the legislation and your internal policies and guidance that covers the above topics and reductions in UC payments for individuals who have deductions and then get a sanction.*

#### **DWP Response:**

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested. However, the information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

However, to be helpful, information about deductions and sanctions can be accessed through the links below:

For deductions, '*The Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/380)*', under regulation 60, Schedule 6 and Schedule 7:

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2013/380/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2013/380/contents/made)

For sanctions '*The Universal Credit Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/376)*':

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2013/376/contents/made>

In addition, Universal Credit guidance is published in the House of Commons library and can be accessed through the link below: Deposit ref. DEP2018-0759, in the Deposit ref. column

click "Show all files". For example, see: Deposit papers: *'Deductions – V2.0, Deductions Priority – V1.0' and 'Sanctions V6.0'*:

[https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?search\\_term=Department+for+Work+and+Pensions&itemId=119004#toggle-759](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?search_term=Department+for+Work+and+Pensions&itemId=119004#toggle-759)

For information, Universal Credit guidance is periodically added to the House of Commons library.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Policy Group 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 [https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745