



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
Information Team  
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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2022/95939

15 December 2022

Dear M Downing,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 30 November. You wrote:

“Certain situations require that Universal Credit work search and work availability requirements be automatically "switched off" for a period of time. These are outlined in reg 99 of The Universal Credit Regulations 2013. Often, in practice, this does not occur, and work search and work availability requirements are still imposed on the claimant even though the claimant has properly declared the changes in circumstances that triggered the regulation.

I would like to request any recorded information on how often a work search or work availability requirement was imposed on a UC claimant when it was supposed to be switched off according to this regulation.

If this information could be broken down by year and region, this would be great.”

## **DWP Response**

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

However, you may find the following explanation useful. We have provided this outside our obligations under the Fol Act. We have included links below to both [1] the guidance and [2] the regulations which cover easements policy.

[1] [ADM Chapter J3: Work-related requirements \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[2] [The Universal Credit Regulations 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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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@dpw.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, 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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.