

Dear Finn Keaney,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 2 April 2020. You asked for:

One of your key approaches as outlined in point 2.4 of the DWP Single Departmental Plan is to "[d]eliver policies, strategies and structures that are co-produced with disabled people [...] exploring how the welfare system can better meet the needs of claimants with disabilities and health conditions."

You have recently taken applications for a new partnership called the Universal Credit Transition Fund which is aimed at vulnerable people to help them to 'navigate UC and move closer towards employment.'

With the above quote from your Single Departmental Plan in mind, please provide:

- copies of all policies and guidance that relate to how co-production should be incorporated into projects and partnerships*
- details of all actions taken to use co-production in this partnership so far, alongside relevant guidance and internal communications*
- details of any requirements placed upon organisations around their use of co-production in this partnership*

DWP Response

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your Freedom of Information request. You can normally expect a response to your FOI request within 20 working days, however due to the current Covid-19 situation we are focusing resources on frontline high-priority areas and responding as soon as we are able to.

There are no DWP-wide policies/guidance on how co-production is incorporated into projects and partnerships. In terms of guidance on how to incorporate co-production the Cabinet Office has some resources on the tools and techniques available:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-policy-making-toolkit>.

In March 2020 DWP launched the Universal Credit Transition Fund to help vulnerable groups navigate the welfare system and move towards and into work. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the consequent refocusing of resources to support frontline activity meant we had to take the decision to pause the UC Transition Fund. We do not yet know when or if we will be in a position to relaunch the fund. We do not hold any information on co-production in these partnerships, and we have not placed any requirements on organisations.

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

Yours sincerely,
Policy Group FOI Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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@dwpp.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FOI 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

Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745