

15 August 2012

Dear Mr Wolf,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 30/07/2012. In that request, you asked:

“Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

[1] The Community Action Programme (CAP) aka SVLTU\* trailblazer recently ended/due to end, please supply a copy of any evaluation report and full summary details of any research that has been commissioned or is currently underway on CAP/SVLTU.

[2] In addition, if within your costs the names of the organisations that provided the actual mandatory 6 month 30 hours per week work placements?

[2] In addition, if within your costs:

[3.1] How many participants completed a CAP placement?

[3.2] How many participants got referred for a CAP placement?

[3.3] How many participants started a CAP placement?

[4] In addition, if within your costs:

How many participants found employment during their time the CAP?

Some of the information above should be available via your providers, who are unable to charge you for it's provision, due to contractual obligations.

\*Now called Support for the very Long Term Unemployed (SVLTU)”

[1] You requested details of evaluation research currently underway for the support for the very long term unemployed trailblazer. This information is being withheld as it falls under the exemption in section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption covers information which is intended for future publication. The research and initial data analysis will be published by DWP at the end of 2012.

[2] The information you have requested is being withheld under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this exemption relates to the commercial interests of the Department for Work and Pensions and any other company or organisation delivering services on our behalf. We consider that the exemption applies because disclosure could, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of companies providing work placements and the ability of the Department and its contracted providers to work in partnership with these companies to secure such opportunities.

In line with the Department's transparency commitments, we have previously provided information about companies who participate in a number of our programmes that offer work experience placements, where we can collect this information without disproportionate cost. However, we are invoking the exemption because it has become clear recently that there are a minority of people who appear to be seeking to undermine the goodwill of employers who are prepared to offer opportunities to unemployed people by attempting to harm those companies' commercial interests.

These actions are not only intended to harm those companies, but could also have an adverse impact on jobseekers who want to get experience in a real working environment to improve their chances of getting employment. They could also deter employers from committing their time and resources to providing such opportunities to people who are keen to make a positive step towards finding a job. Because of this we have had to reconsider our position on releasing information on the employers we work with.

As required by the Section 2 of the Act, we have considered whether there is a public interest in complying with your request. We conclude that while there is a general public interest argument in favour of releasing, the public interest in withholding this information is greater for the following reasons:

- The release of the information as requested could potentially damage the commercial interests of organisations providing work experience placements; and
- The release of the information could inhibit or limit the ability of the Department to obtain the best services to improve people's chances of securing employment.
- The release of the information could inhibit or limit the ability of our contractors to successfully deliver their contract obligations to support Jobseekers into employment.
- The release could limit the opportunity for Jobseekers to gain real experience which would assist them to gain employment.

[3] We do not have reliable data on the number of people who have completed 26 weeks with CAP providers. The evaluation, mentioned in response to Question 1, will provide information on the number of people who have completed CAP.

There were around 4,000 referrals and 3,500 CAP placement starts within the SVLTU trailblazer. A placement start is when a claimant has undergone initial engagement activity with the provider. The link below contains more detailed information on CAP, including definitions (in Annex 3) of completion, allotted time and job outcome fees.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/provider-guidance/community-action-programme.shtml>

[4] We do not hold data on the number of participants that enter employment through the CAP contract, as contractors are paid a job outcome fee only when claimants enter a sustained period of employment.

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@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)